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Accreditation

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRC) is proud to announce they are one of approximately 470 accredited land trusts in the country as determined by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.



There are nearly 1,400 land trusts in total, which makes us part of a small portion (34%) that have went through the rigorous review process to prove that we meet national standards for ethical and sound practices in our land conservation work.

The goal of the accreditation process is to strengthen land trusts, ensure the land conservation projects will withstand the test of time, and that easement terms will be supported in perpetuity by BRC or any future easement holder.

BRC's accreditation process was longer than most as it normally takes approximately one year for an organization to go through the phased application steps. With the 2022 merger, the Commission actually had two applications to review as The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County submitted their second renewal of accreditation application in late 2021. This application was then held and combined with BRC's spring 2022 application for first-time accreditation. Thankfully, after many months of review and multiple document submissions, the Commission agreed that our land conservation work continues to meet their standards and we can now work under the accreditation seal as evidence to the public of our commitment to ethical and sound practices.

Announcing Our New Camp Software

amilia Get ready for a streamlined camp registration process with real-time counts for camp availability. In

addition, you will be able to manage your own household, update contact information and manage camper medical information...all electronically. As with any new system, there will be "bumps" in the road...please be patient as we transition to this new state of the art system later this year.

Stay tuned to our website and social media for more information.



Summer Camp

2024 was another record year with 8 weeks of camp and close to 600 "wet and muddy" faces.

Our camps at the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve are starting to sell out like our camps at the Myrick Conservation Center. We also saw an increase in scholarship applications and were able to make camp happen for over 200 campers with financial struggles. Get ready as we add a new weekly theme next year "Full STEAM Ahead", that will focus not only on STEM concepts but a little more art as well.



Tentative 2025 camps dates are June 23rd through August 15th.

Registration will open on Monday, February 3, 2025.

Fall 2024 Early Childhood Programs

BOOKS & BOOTS SERIES

Storytime Based. Books come to life at the Myrick Conservation Center and continue with an outdoor adventure and craft.



Ages 2 – 7
Second Wednesday & Fourth Friday
10/9, 10/25, 11/13, 11/22, 12/11
10:00am – 11:30am

NATURE PLAY SERIES

Self-exploration Based. Get WILD at our Nature Play program at the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve – Wonder, Investigate, Learn & Discover! Explore guided weekly themes at your own pace.



Ages 2 – 7
First Friday & Third Thursday
10/4, 10/17, 11/1, 11/21, 12/6, 12/19
10:00am – 11:30am

Please remember to dress for the weather as the programs run outside, rain or shine. All programs require registration 48 hours prior to program & a minimum of 6 participants.

Members \$6.50, Non-Member \$13

Parents and caregivers MUST also register (free of charge)

Young Waterfowlers Program

Waterfowling is an American tradition that combines hunting with an appreciation of wetlands and their wildlife.

In order to instill a strong conservation ethic for all of our natural resources, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRC) is 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. Special topics include identification of waterfowl, conservation ethics, retriever training, decoy carving, safety skills 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 trainer and world champion waterfowl callers.

Advanced Young Waterfowlers – ages 13-18. For alumnae of previous Young Waterfowler programs, we offer additional training in the art and science of waterfowling; including advanced decoy carving and calling techniques. Students will have an opportunity to participate in a specially guided hunt on a private farm.

Sundays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
January 19th and 26th (two day program)
Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
Myrick Conservation Center
1760 Unionville Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA 19382
\$50, family members and above only

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

Attention Eagle Scouts



Looking for an idea for your
Eagle Scout project?
**OUR EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT HAS TWO!**

- A mobile PVC “water park/misting station” built for our summer camps... easy setup/takedown.
- A mobile “exploration” table with HD wheels built for programming. Will need drawer and cabinet storage for microscopes & discovery items.

If interested, please contact our Education Director, Alexa Hart at ahart@brandywineredclay.org.

Educational Programming

Welcome back to all those formal educators out there!

We are hard at work updating our lesson plans with the new PA state standards. Our fall teaching calendar (Pennsylvania and Delaware) is almost full and we've started to book dates for spring of 2025. During the 2024 school year we had a 25% increase in the number of students we saw over the 2023 school year... which is inching us closer to our pre-Covid rates. In addition, we awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to local school districts... making environmental field trips more accessible. During 2024 we also added enrichment programs open to the public.

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR EDUCATION BROCHURE.



Victory Garden

Once again, BRC planted our Victory garden with the help of volunteers from WSFS Bank.

By the end of summer we had donated 1,400 pounds of fresh produce to the Kennett Food Cupboard from our Victory Garden. Summer campers enjoyed helping with the harvest of zucchini, tomatoes, and peppers.



Campers also enjoyed picking our high bush blueberries for a healthy morning snack!

Tree Plantings for Clean Water

BRC continues to support tree planting projects in the watershed as well as helping provide trees to landowners.

In May, BRC planted 153 trees and 25 shrubs on a farm on the East Branch Red Clay Creek in East Marlborough Township with 25 volunteers from Comcast. We also continue to partner with the Chester County Conservation District and the Keystone 10 Million Tree Project distributing 2,500 trees to Chester County residents.



Green Jobs

Learning by Doing

In July, BRC hosted City of Wilmington Green Jobs High School Interns for two days on the Brandywine. On day one we went seining with Dr. Ed Hale of DE Sea Grant and caught juvenile shad and eels. Students were also thrilled to learn to fish and even catch a few smallmouth bass and bluegills. On day two, we went canoeing out of Northbrook and cooled off with a swim in the refreshing waters of Brandywine Creek.



Fall Land Stewardship Activities

In addition to securing ecologically valuable land threatened by development, BRC engages in a variety of traditional and innovative land stewardship efforts across our fee lands.

Stewardship is an essential component of conservation that stresses the interdependent relationship people have with their natural environment and serves as a commitment to restore and maintain land that provides native plant and wildlife habitat, scenic hiking trails, and outdoor educational spaces.

We invite you to give back to the land you love by employing good stewardship practices on your own property.

A few of our top suggestions for sustainably managing your yard this season are:

- Compost leaves that have fallen in your yard or leave them lie over the winter in flower beds and part of the yard to provide habitat for insects and the birds and mammals that eat them
- Consider installing bird feeders for migrating and wintering birds
- Cut and remove previously hard to access vines from trees (more information following)
- Cage younger native trees you find popping up to prevent deer rub

Fall is a great time to cut and treat both invasive vines and shrubs that you may have been thinking about removing. As deciduous flora prepare for winter, they pull their energy into their root system. Cutting and painting stumps with herbicide of invasive vines and shrubs in the fall means that the targeted herbicide is pulled directly into the root system and helps ensure the plant is killed. Such focused treatments are sometimes the best option to eradicate invasive species that are prone to dominating our native woodland understory such as burning bush and cover and choke out our trees such as Oriental bittersweet.

Fall treatment also allows landowners better access as you can wait for the underbrush to die back if you have larger woodlands or extensive areas of invasives. For vines, our stewardship team recommends cutting a chunk out of the vine to prevent the ends from sprouting and reconnecting. The vine will die, rot, and fall out of the tree so you do not need to do anything to pull it down. These invasive vines such as Oriental Bittersweet and Porcelain Berry can grow as big as trees themselves and they form dense mats over our forests and block the sun for our native trees.

Managing vines on your property will help ensure your native trees are not weakened and killed by the vines over time. This stewardship practice requires rather little time depending on your property size, but can have a huge impact on the health of your woodland. If you do have a larger woodland to manage, get in the habit of carrying clippers on your walks and cut a few vines a day during the fall and winter. Every vine cut is a tree protected.



Brandywine Clean-up

This year's clean up in the Brandywine Creek watershed covered 32 miles of roads and 17 miles of streams at four clean up locations in 11 municipalities across two states (PA and DE).

Over 180 volunteers filled three dumpsters with trash and collected 42 tires from the watershed from Modena, Pennsylvania to Brandywine Valley Unit of the First State National Historical Park in Delaware.



Red Clay Clean-up

In March, BRC continued our annual clean up of the Red Clay Creek watershed in Pennsylvania and Delaware with 448 volunteers collecting 6.8 tons of trash and 146 tires.

Since our first clean-up, 18,969 volunteers have removed 439 tons of trash from the watershed!



Photo credit Chris Barber

Annual Campaign

We ask you to consider an Annual Campaign donation to BRC in 2024 so that we can continue our efforts to preserve our natural resources for tomorrow, next year, and future generations.

BRC continues to expand our goals and reach, and we need your support as we increase our watershed and land conservation and environmental education.

YES! I want to make a difference and further conservation in the Brandywine and Red Clay Watersheds!

DONATE NOW BY VISITING BRANDYWINEREDCLAY.ORG.

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.

Annual Dinner

Save the date for the beloved Annual Dinner at the Mendenhall Inn.

Thursday, October 24th 5:30 – 8:30pm

Please join us as we shine a spotlight on our accomplishments over the last year, including our accreditation!

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.



Dead Fest and Summer Music Series

BRC hosted the Fourteenth Annual Dead Fest and the 2024 BRC Summer Music Series, which featured returning artists such as Cameltones, Bones Brigade and Carly Simmons, as well as artists new to our event like Lester's Pearl and Local Honey. The more than 2,000 attendees of the events enjoyed everything from classic and jam rock to country along with great food from local food trucks.

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported these events!

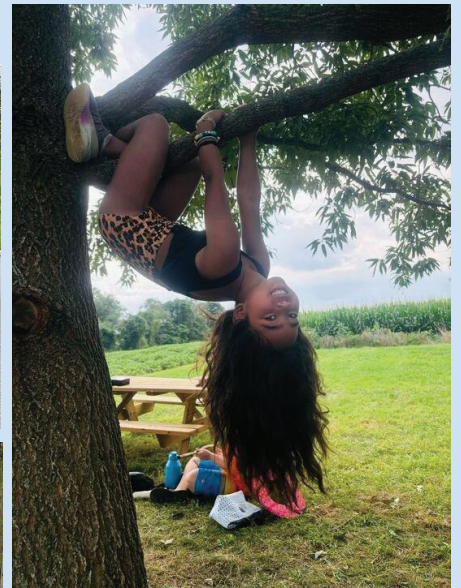
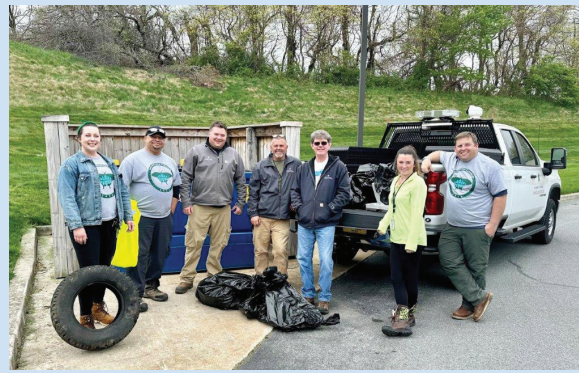




POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS

SMALL PONY	0.49	OWNER	TRAINER	RIDER
HIGGINS	FIRST	EMMA NESS	MANDY NESS	EMMA NESS
ROGER	SECOND	SCOTT & JESSICA HAMMOND	ELIZABETH MCCUE	ABBY TAYLOR
SASSY	THIRD	GEORGANNE HALE	ELIZABETH MCCUE	WILL SICKLER
GILBERT	FOURTH	PAULY AGUILERA	MANUEL AGUILERA	PAULY AGUILERA
OLNEY LIGHTNING BUG	FIFTH	IMOGEN WEAVER	REGINA WELSH	FILEY LANHAM
MEDIUM PONY	.58	OWNER	TRAINER	RIDER
PEACOCK	FIRST	EMMA NESS	MANDY NESS	EMMA NESS
CHARLESTON	SECOND	MIKE ROGERS	ELIZABETH MCCUE	PAULY AGUILERA
PAISLEY	THIRD	ELIZABETH MCKNIGHT	ELIZABETH MCCUE	WILLIAM SLATER
THUMPER	FOURTH	EHM STABLES	ELIZABETH MCCUE	SOPHIA VILLACRES
LARGE PONY	1:30	OWNER	TRAINER	RIDER
BAILEY	FIRST	HOLLY ROBINSON	ELIZABETH MCCUE	WILLIAM SLATER
LAUGH OUT LOUD	SECOND	EHM STABLES	ELIZABETH MCCUE	ABBY TAYLOR
GOOD MAGIC	THIRD	EHM STABLES	ELIZABETH MCCUE	XIMENA AGUILERA
JR. FLD. MASTERS - MEDIUM PONY				
SPUR OF THE MOMENT	FIRST	KRISTIN TAYLOR	ELIZABETH MCCUE	ABBY TAYLOR
JR. FLD. MASTERS - LARGE PONY				
MINI	FIRST	MIKE ROGERS	BETTY MCCUE	PAULY AGUILERA
JR. FLD. MASTERS - HORSE				
KHAFAYYA	FIRST	RORY YOUNG	LESLIE F. YOUNG	WILLIAM SLATER
LEADLINE PONY				
THUMPER	FIRST	EHM STABLES	ELIZABETH MCCUE	MANUEL AGUILERA, JR.
QUICK DRAW MCGRAW	SECOND	IMOGEN WEAVER	REGINA WELSH	IMOGEN WEAVER
OLNEY LIGHTNING BUG	THIRD	IMOGEN WEAVER	REGINA WELSH	BIRDIE SMITH
PUMPKIN PATCH	FOURTH	PERRY JONAS	DAPHNE NEILSON JONAS	NEIL JONAS
MARLO	FIFTH	PERRY JONAS	DAPHNE NEILSON JONAS	BEAZIE JONAS
PUMBA	SIXTH	SONDER MARTINEZ	SHAYNE ZAPLITNY	SONDER MARTINEZ
LADIES RACE				
BRAVE DEACON	FIRST	JOSEPH G. DAVIES	JOSEPH G. DAVIES	SCARLET DAVIES
JARIR	SECOND	MCKENNA O'NEIL	NICOLE O'NEIL	DELANEY O'NEIL
SWALLOW BEACH	THIRD	WILLIAM MEISTER	WILLAIM MEISTER	SAM ENGLISH
AMATEUR APPRENTICE				
WITHOUTMOREADO	FIRST	IRVIN S. NAYLOR	KATHERINE S. NEILSON	TEDDY DAVIES
SHOOTIST	SECOND	UPLAND PARTNERS	TODD MCKENNA	FREDDIE PROCTOR
NOVICE				
JOHNNY SWISH	FIRST	KEYSTONE THOROUGHBREDS	TODD MCKENNA	ANDREW BURKE OTT
ITSKNOWASTHEBERN	SECOND	WILLIAM MEISTER	WILLAIM MEISTER	SAM ENGLISH
REASON TO PRAY	FELL	JEAN L. ROFE	JAMES PIPER	VIRGINIA KORRELL
SIDE SADDLE RACE				
NOBLE WEED	FIRST	JULIE NAFF	JULIE NAFF	JULIE NAFF
CHEETAH BEACH	SECOND	JESSICA LAMPE	JESSICA LAMPE	LAUREN APPLE
QUEEN KAHEN	THIRD	JULIE NAFF	JULIE NAFF	OLIVIA SITAR
GUN LOBBY	FOURTH	JULIE NAFF	JULIE NAFF	SALLY DALEY SMITH

Point-to-Point Photos Credit: Jim Graham



Year in Review

2024 **FALL**

Upcoming Events & Programs

- **WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL**
March 20, 2025
- **RED CLAY VALLEY CLEAN-UP**
March 29, 2025
- **BRANDYWINE HILLS POINT TO POINT**
April 6, 2025
- **BRANDYWINE CLEAN-UP**
April 12, 2025

WISH LIST

- HEAVY DUTY SLIP & SLIDE BY WOW SPORTS**
- BUG VIEWERS**

PLEASE CONTACT BRC FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

