



## Brandywine Clean Up Collects Over Three Tons Of Trash

This year's Brandywine Clean Up was held on Earth Day, April 22, and collected over three tons of trash on 33 miles of roads, trails and stream banks thanks to the work of 136 volunteers.

Our clean up continues to expand in area covered thanks to our regional site leaders and included four staging areas in two states: Modena, Downingtown, Pocopson/West Chester and Beaver Valley, Delaware and included portions of 11 municipalities. The annual clean up removes trash BEFORE it enters the streams and reduces plastics, tires and other pollutants that have long-term impact on our streams and oceans.



Volunteers from Victory Brewing Company.

This community effort would not be possible without the generous support of: Cleveland Cliffs, USW #1165, Flyway Excavating, Aqua, Pennsylvania American Water, Victory Brewing Company, Downingtown Municipal Water Authority, Marshallton Conservation Trust, SECCRA and Republic Services.



Brandywine Clean Up Volunteers in Modena.

## Red Clay Valley Clean Up

The Red Clay Valley Clean Up was held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, and covered 98 miles of Red Clay Valley streams and roadways in both PA and DE.

We had 647 volunteers giving up a large part of their Saturday to collect 10.3 tons of trash, including 52 tires! We appreciate the volunteers who came out on a chilly rainy Saturday, and we also are thankful for the following sponsors of the event: Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, Delaware Nature Society, Mt. Cuba Center, Wild Birds Unlimited-Hockessin, Phillips Mushroom Farms, Constellation, WSFS Foundation, Flyway Excavating, Chandler Funeral Home, Veolia, Kennett Area Park Authority, Champion, Marty's Contracting, and Bike Delaware.



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# Honey Brook Trout Stocking

For the fifth year, BRC and our partners at Brandywine Conservancy and Stroud Water Research Center stocked trout in the headwaters of the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek with 60 student “scholars” from two Plain Sect Amish Schools.

As part of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, we participate in the Brandywine Christina Cluster working on stream restoration, riparian forest buffers and agricultural best management practices such as livestock fencing to keep cows out of the stream and manure management. The trout stocking is a fun outreach event that teaches the youth, and future farmers, the value of clean water and provides them with a direct reward in being able to catch trout in these improved streams. The William Penn Foundation helps to fund the initiative and BRC uses funding from Chester County Solid Waste Authority to fund the trout stocking.



## TROUT RODEO



BRC once again partnered with the Kennett Area Park Authority for the Annual Trout Rodeo at Anson B. Nixon Park. Anglers of all ages came out in the rain to fish for over 600 rainbow, gold, brook and brown trout.

# 10 Million For Tree Planting

BRC partnered with Chester County Conservation District to distribute 6,500 trees this spring to be planted at 65 different sites.

The landowners receiving trees varied from a retirement center, several farms, local businesses, parks, homeowner associations and residential properties. All the tree plantings are associated with a stream and will improve water quality by providing shade to keep the streams cool, stabilize stream banks and provide organic matter for aquatic life. The trees also help to sequester carbon to mitigate climate change. The trees are provided by the Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership. The Conservation District coordinates all the orders and BRC helps with distribution out of our Browning Barn.



## Welcome David D'Antonio

BRC is pleased to welcome David D'Antonio as our Business Manager.

He is a native of Kennett Square, and an avid sports fan (We Are!) David comes to BRC with more than 30 years of experience in the area of conservation management, and we are happy to have him on the BRC team.



## Education

### TREE PLANTING AT WILLIAM F. COOKE, JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On May 17th, BRC held our annual tree planting event with 85 Kindergarten students and their teachers at William F. Cooke Jr. School in Hockessin, DE. This has been an annual tradition since the school opened in 2014. During this fun hands-on exercise, these young students learn about the importance of trees, nature, and our natural environment.



### CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AT BRANDYWINE SPRINGS SCHOOL

On May 16th, BRC held our long-standing Earth Day celebration at Brandywine Springs School with 948 students, grade K through 8th participating. This event was coordinated by BRC's Education Coordinator, Kathy Yacucci. Students participated in a variety of Earth Day activities, depending on grade level, activities included building bird feeders, litter pick-up, water quality analysis, and many others. Also, each grade participated in an Earth Day Poster Contest, with prizes awarded by BRC.



**Stay busy** and join Land Steward, Carl Hutchinson, in an effort to improve BRC's nature preserves.

Assist with a variety of tasks including invasive species removal, trail clearing, tree planting maintenance, and light construction, all while learning about nature, having fun, and meeting great people! No experience necessary! Water, sturdy work boots, and protective clothing are a must. Tools, work gloves, and eye and ear protection (if necessary) will be provided.

*VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SIGN UP.*

## 16th Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival

On March 30, the 16th Annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival was held at Upland School in Kennett Square.

Trail Creek Outfitters sponsored the event, with proceeds going to BRC and Stroud Water Research Center. Attendees of the event enjoyed food and drink from local restaurants and vendors while watching a curated selection of nature films. We would like to thank all of the attendees and donors for their support of this event



BRC Board member Andrew Homsey and staff member Alexa Hart at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival

## Irénée du Pont IN MEMORIAM

BRC lost a dear friend with the passing of Irénée "Brip" du Pont on January 16, 2023, at the age of 103.



Mr. du Pont was a constant force for conservation in the region and a very generous donor to BRC. Through the Crystal Trust he helped to fund many capital projects, including the renovation of the Browning Barn to our current Education Center, construction of our equipment building and renovations to our Myrick Conservation Center office. In addition to his philanthropic gifts, he gave us the invaluable gifts of his time and expertise.

Above all else, he was truly a gentleman, and always found the time to talk to anyone who shared his love for the outdoors, history, and anything mechanical; especially children exploring the grounds of his stunning estate which he and his late wife Barbara graciously opened to our youth education programs. He will be greatly missed by BRC, and by the countless other people he touched in his century of life.



# Preservation

**Brandywine Red Clay Alliance celebrated May and the one-year anniversary of the merger by completing two conservation easements.**

Both donated conservation easements lie within the Brandywine Creek watershed and serve to protect headwaters, first-order tributaries, and wetlands. These critical resources provide a multitude of benefits for watershed residents with freshwater wetlands being one of our region's most at risk habitats. Wetlands serve to absorb and filter stormwater and prevent downstream flooding while providing habitat for native reptiles, amphibians, birds, and other wildlife.

The smaller easement, donated in memory of David and June Soricelli, longtime owners who spent nearly forty years caring for it, consists of approximately nine acres of headwaters to the West Branch Brandywine Creek. The property contains a large pond, an emerging wetland, and an established wetland that spans the adjacent property and serves as the start of a first-order tributary to the Brandywine. The property is zoned for 1-acre lots, but these building rights were severed via the conservation easement to greatly limit the potential impact of future development on this critical headwaters area. Of note, the easement serves as our first in West Brandywine Township!

The second easement completed protects over 15 acres of wetland, open space, and woodland that contain two tributaries to the Brandywine Creek, a one-acre pond, and protects moderate and steep slopes. When completing a conservation easement, all land trusts complete a baseline documentation report that creates a snapshot of the property at the time of the easement's completion as a reference in the case of future violations or questions. When completing the baseline, we have a botanical survey completed and this easement was found to have several Pennsylvania rare and watch list species, which was exciting as they spanned not just the wetland where we were expecting to find something, but the woodland as well.

As with the other easement, this one also eliminates all residential house lots, which helps ensure that the property is not built out. Subdividing these small parcels with critical resources such as wetlands would be detrimental to the larger watershed as runoff from development impacts water quality for everyone within the Brandywine Creek Watershed. This easement lies within Pocopson Township and creates a connection between existing protected lands.

Thank you to our landowners for partnering with BRC to permanently protect your lands! With the completion of these two projects, BRC holds conservation easements on over 1,300 acres in eight townships. We have multiple active projects in the works and are happy to speak with anyone considering protecting their property. If you are interested and have questions, please contact Abbie Kessler, Land Preservation Director.



# Livestock Fencing and Forested Buffer Protect Headwater Stream

**BRC has been working with a landowner with a horse operation, crop fields and a headwater pond to improve downstream water quality on the East Branch Red Clay Creek.**

After completing an Agricultural Conservation Plan, BRC worked with a consultant to identify best practices to protect the stream. As part of the project, three horse paddocks were relocated away from the headwaters pond to prevent manure from entering the pond and stream. Over 200 trees and shrubs were then planted in the former paddocks and around the pond. Later this spring the grass swale directing stormwater from the horse paddocks will be re-aligned with the addition of a new biochar filter. The biochar filter works similarly to a Brita water filter, using a charcoal carbon mixed with soils to filter nutrients out of the stormwater runoff, including nitrogen and phosphorous before it enters the stream. Excess nutrients in a water body cause an overabundance of plant life that can consume the oxygen in the water when the plants die, reducing the biodiversity of aquatic life in a stream. The project is funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with additional support from Brandywine Conservancy and William Penn Foundation.





# School Programs

Spring of '23 has been a banner season...we sold out on dates to offer programming to schools. Due to the continuing challenge schools face securing bussing for field trips, we have expanded our outreach options. We are also excited to see one new school district and several new preschools and homeschool groups. As a result of the changes to Pennsylvania's Science, Technology, Engineering and Environmental Literacy standards, we are utilizing our creative juices developing new lesson plans to address these updates (this is where we really have fun). We continue to enhance our partnerships with our educational resources creating the best possible learning environment for students to understand the natural connections between people, places and various elements that interact to create the communities in which we live.



# Summer Camp

Even during Covid, our camps have continued to grow. This year we are running 50 different camps over 9 weeks at 3 different locations. With Covid under control, we are excited to say we will be returning to using the barn at Myrick and lunch games for our campers...a long standing tradition! The sea goat may just reappear too. Campers are guaranteed to get "Wet & Muddy Every Day"...although we take no responsibility for what your children may do to your car. Since our merger with TLC, the camps at the Chandler Mill Nature Preserve are thriving and providing BRC with the means to expand our reach and deliver our mission by inspiring an appreciation and knowledge for the natural environment by getting outside away from modern day technology. While most camps at Myrick are sold out, we have a few openings at our Chandler Mill Nature Preserve in Avondale. We look forward to exploring and going on new adventures with your campers.







Pony Race Participants



Bouncy Pony Race Participants

## SUCCESSFUL BRANDYWINE HILLS POINT-TO-POINT WAS HELD ON APRIL 1ST!

BRC and the Brandywine Hills Point to Point Committee thank all the sponsors, patrons, volunteers, owners, trainers, riders and attendees for making the race meet successful. Proceeds benefit BRC's environmental education and watershed conservation programs.



Side Saddle Race Participants

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Radnor Hunt Foxhunters & The Hounds Foundation

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West Pharmaceuticals Services, Inc.

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### BEST TURNED OUT PONY

Trish Scott Insurance & Kathy Barry Agency

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Franny Sharon

Margot Taylor

Nick & Pam Volpone

### RACING ENTHUSIASTS

L. Stockton Illoway

Register Associates, Inc.

Edgar Scott Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Gary A. Warzecha

Point-to-Point Photo Credit: Jim Graham



**We ask you to consider an Annual Campaign donation to BRC in 2023 so that we can continue our efforts to preserve our natural resources for tomorrow, next year, and future generations.**

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.

## New Members

Sep. 1, 2022 - May 9, 2022

Ms. Beth Abbott	Ms. Liz Cross	Shawn Hiller	Ms. Diane Miller	Ms. Diane Sheetz
Ms. Jane Alvernini	Mr. Andrew Danner	Ms. Carrie Hipple	Ms. Samantha Miller	Ms. Leanne Skinner
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Langley Barnes	Ms. Jaclyn Fitzgerald	Mrs. Abbie Kessler	Ms. Beth Okupniarek	Mr. Dan Stringer
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Barnett	Ms. Kathleen Fogel	Ms. Bonnie Kibbie	Ms. Jayne Overturf	Ms. Melissa Tinley
Ms. Jill Bartilomo	Ms. Amanda Fracke	Mr. Adam King	Devorah Palladino	Ms. Rita Tomassetti
Mr. Nick Beard	Mr. Gavin Freas	Ms. Emily Kofke	Mr. Kevin Parchen & Ms. Luwanda McKinney	Ms. Susan B. Trahan
Ms. Emily Beaston	Ms. Peg Friese	Ms. Sasha Kryst	Ms. Chloe Payne	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Turner
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Mr. David Burt	Katelyn Gingrich	Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lincoln	Ms. Ellen Prosser	Mr. John Wolfrom
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Mr. Daniel Caprioli	Mr. Mark Greenawalt	Ms. Veronica Mahon	Ms. Sara Ramaker	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Zimmerman
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Mr. Rob Cassidy	Mr. and Mrs. David Hack	Ms. Andrea Mason	Ms. Heather Reiffer	
Mr. David Chuang	Katherine Haeusel	Steph Maurer	Ms. Alicia Renna	
Mr. Andrew Clauhs	Ms. Sara Hall Phillips	Ms. Michelle McFarland	Mr. Ben Reynolds	
Mr. Charles Clerk	Ms. Lauren Hammerer	Mr. & Mrs. Robert McGovern	Ms. Renee Richardson	
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Suzanne Cornell			Sharon Gausch	
Ms. Julie Crater			Ms. Lindsay Shea	



## 2023 **SPRING**

### **Upcoming Events & Programs**

#### **Volunteer Work Day**

Wednesday, June 14 1.p.m-6 p.m

#### **Summer Music Series (Thursday nights)**

July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3 and 10

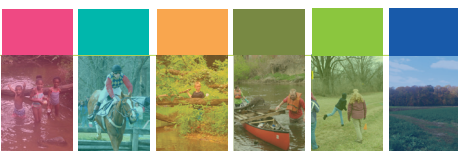
#### **Dead Fest**

Friday, September 8, 2023

## WISH LIST

- CHILDREN'S BINOCULARS (UP TO 15)
- CHILDREN'S MAGNIFYING LENSES (UP TO 15)
- POND NET

**PLEASE CONTACT BRC FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**





## NATURE PRESERVES



### ***Myrick Conservation Center***

1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road  
West Chester, PA

318 acres of woodland, field, and meadow with 9+ miles of natural trails. Home to BRC's office, amphitheater, education programs, and many annual events including the summer music series and Dead Fest. Our dog policy changes seasonally based on preserve activity. Please visit our website for up to date information.



### ***New Leaf Sensory Garden***

776 Rosedale Road  
Kennett Square, PA

11+ acres of wetlands and meadow with 1/2 mile trail and meandering stream. Home to wildflower plantings, pollinator garden, BRC's apiary, and successional riparian buffer. Assorted interactive sensory stations available. No dogs are allowed.



### ***Stateline Woods Preserve***

814\* Merrybell Lane  
Kennett Square, PA  
\*Use 950 for GPS

86 acres with 2-3 miles of easy to moderate trails through fields and woodlands with great hilltop views. Open for passive recreation and nature study. Leashed dogs are allowed.

**MEMBERS HELP KEEP THE PRESERVES OPEN!**

RATES  
START AT **\$25**





## **Chandler Mill Nature Preserve**

541 Chandler Mill Road  
Avondale, PA

45 acres with 1.5 miles of trails at the confluence of Red Clay and Bucktoe creeks. Features BRC's Walnut Hill office, historic Chandler Mill Bridge, permeable parking lot, and Interpretive Nature Center. Trail access to the historic Bucktoe Cemetery. No dogs are allowed.



## **Marshall Bridge Preserve**

Access via Farm Lane off Benge Road  
Hockessin, DE

80 wooded and open acres for walking, hiking, birding, and nature study. Arc monument SW of parking. Abuts Auburn Valley State Park in Delaware. Leashed dogs are allowed.



## **Marshall Mill House Preserve**

932 Creek Road  
Kennett Square, PA

40 acres with 1.5 mile trail loop with incline and steps. Featuring class 1 woodlands with intact forest interior. Open for hiking, birding, and other passive recreation. Leashed dogs are allowed.

### **OUR MISSION**

*To promote the restoration, conservation, and enjoyment of the natural resources of the Brandywine and Red Clay Watersheds through education, scientific activities, environmental stewardship and advocacy.*

## **PLEASE JOIN TODAY!**



[brandywineredclay.org](http://brandywineredclay.org)



[@BrandywineRedClay](https://www.instagram.com/BrandywineRedClay)



610.793.1090

**Brandywine Red Clay Alliance**

Land Preservation | Watershed Conservation | Environmental Education