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RED CLAY VALLEY CLEAN UP

Save the Date! More than 800 volunteers will be needed on March 24, 2018 to clean up more than 90 miles of stream and roadway for the Annual Red Clay Valley Clean Up. Please stay tuned to our website and FB page for sign-up information.



RED Streams
BLUE

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT RED STREAMS BLUE ACTIVITY

Red Streams Blue construction has been quiet for the last 18 months, but this fall two projects were completed. The first is on the upper east branch Red Clay Creek and restored 1,500 feet of stream. Eroding streambanks were regraded and seeded with native grasses and wildflowers, which will prevent further erosion. The stream was fenced to prevent access by horses and a 35 foot tree and shrub buffer was planted by 56 volunteers. Stream crossings and water access were provided for the horses and a grassed waterway, animal walkway, and animal heavy use area were constructed. This project, along with two previously completed projects downstream, will protect nearly one mile of the Red Clay Creek.



RED CLAY CREEK TO BECOME A DESIGNATED TROUT STREAM

The state of Delaware, DNREC has designated the Red Clay Creek as a trout stream and will be stocking trout in the Red Clay this Spring, on a limited basis; the designated trout stream will be from DE/PA state line to the bridge at Benge Road. This same stretch of the Red Clay was a trout stream in Delaware from 1971

The second project was on Plum Run, a tributary to the main stem of the Brandywine Creek. Construction involved streambank stabilization on 400 feet of stream, installation of five in-stream structures including cross vanes, J-hooks, and straight vanes, and a buffer planting in spring 2018. With this project Plum Run has five restorations protecting over one mile of stream. Still to come is construction on about 5,000 feet of Plum Run below West Chester University. Both the Plum Run and Red Clay projects were funded by grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the William Penn Foundation's Delaware River Watershed Initiative. Additional support for the Red Clay project came from SUEZ Water, CSX Rail, Stroud Water Research Center, and the USDA.

through 1986 and was Delaware's first and only fly fishing stream for several years. Stocking was discontinued after 1986 due to fish tissue contamination. BRC has worked diligently for the past several years to have Red Clay stocked with trout for a put and take fishery, our efforts included stocking trout on an experimental basis, with follow-up electro shock fish recovery and tissue analysis by a certified laboratory.

BRC applauds Delaware's decision and is currently in communication with the state officials and hopes to assist and enhance their efforts. Please visit our website or the DNREC, Division of Fish & Wildlife website for updated information, as it becomes available.

EDUCATION AWARDS

Michael Replogle, an Earth & Space and AP Environmental Science at Kennett High School was awarded BRC's 2017 science teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Rep's passion for interweaving science and real-world experiences into the curriculum are clear indicators of his desire for his students to be successful lifelong learners and stewards of the environment.



Awardee Michael Replogle, BRC Education Coordinator Julia Steiner and Kennett High School Principal Jeremy Hritz



BRC Education Coordinator Julia Steiner and Environmental Instructor of the Year award recipient Carol Buckley

Carol Buckley was named as BRC's Environmental Instructor of the Year. A naturalist at heart and former "lab rat" she brings broad scope of knowledge to her teaching.



Fall has come and gone, but not without gracing us with beautiful weather for hands-on learning at the Myrick Conservation Center's Pond. Sign up for one of our standards-aligned school programs today!

NEW MEMBERS AS OF 12/31/17

Ms. Karen Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Ballantyne
Mr. Erich Bollman
Ms. Melissa Brady
Ms. Meredith Burns
Mr. and Mrs. Nate Chapman
Mr. Justin Collela

Mr. John Cornwell
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Cunius
Mr. Brent du Pont
Ms. Linda Ennis
Ms. Ellen Ferretti
Diane and Bill Goad
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Grafton

Ms. Mary Griffin
Ms. Lori Kier
Ms. Julia Lacy
Mr. Eric Matuszak
Clifford Frasch and Brenda Reis
Ms. Katherine Rigo
Ms. Rachel Roberts

Ms. Maricia Snavelly
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Strommer
Ms. Isabelle Trombetta
Jim and Amy White
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Young



Volunteer Work Day

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

On Sept. 30 more than 100 volunteers gathered at BRC's Myrick Conservation Center property for our Annual Volunteer Work Day. Projects completed included: tree and invasive removal, Browning Barn clean-up, restoration of the Lenape Village and Team Challenge areas, putting the vegetable garden to bed for the winter and road clean-up.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who took the time out of their busy Fall schedules to help us keep the property well maintained for all visitors.

2018 POLAR PLUNGE

SATURDAY FEB 10, 2018 10AM TIL NOON

BRANDYWINE PICNIC PARK
ROUTES 52 & 100 690 S. CREEK RD WEST CHESTER, PA

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.brandywineredclay.org or call 610-793-1090

SPRING 2018 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

BOOKS AND BOOTS

10:00-11:30am
February 15, March 8, April 12
For Children 3-5 years old



Books come to life at the Myrick Conservation Center as Potter the Otter reads a book to inspire. The story continues with an on-theme craft and a real-life outdoor adventure. Please register by the Wednesday before class. Please remember to dress for the weather!

Members: \$6 / Non-members: \$8
*register for all four programs and get the fourth one free!

WILDLIFE OF THE BRANDYWINE AND RED CLAY VALLEYS

Wednesday, January 24 7:00-8:30pm



Join us for a photographic tour of the abundant and diverse wildlife found in the Brandywine and Red Clay Valleys, as nature photographer Derek Stoner presents a showcase of the unique animals that call this region their home. From the tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbird to the migrating Monarch Butterflies and regal Red Foxes, there are many amazing creatures that depend upon the conservation efforts and healthy habitats in this region. Take a journey through the seasons as we experience an array of photographs, audio recordings, and taxidermy specimens of our native wildlife.

Member: \$8 / Non-member: \$10

WINTER HIKE

10:00-11:00pm January 28



Take what you learned from Derek Stoner's lecture and see it in real life! Hike our 318-acre property and see what organisms you can find.

Members: \$3 / Non-members: \$5

FISHING THE BRANDYWINE A TALE OF THREE RIVERS

6:30-8:00pm March 7



This presentation will look at the Fly Fishing opportunities of one of southeastern Pennsylvania's best rivers, the historical Brandywine. A cold-water trout fishery at the top, a blue-ribbon smallmouth bass river through the middle and tidal water at the bottom, the Brandywine has it all. We will discuss gear, techniques, tactics and places to go during this hour-long presentation. Whether you have fished the "bwine" for years or are just starting out there is something in this presentation for you.

Member: \$10 / Non-member: \$15

YOGA & WOODS WALK

4:30-6:30pm March 20
Ages 10 & up



Join us at our property and embrace the peaceful surroundings by practicing yoga among the trees. After your practice go on a hike and learn about the nature that surrounds you.

Members: \$5 / Non-members: \$8

NIGHT HIKE

7:30-9:00pm March 26
All ages



Experience the magic of BRC's property after dark! Hike to our pond and listen for the frogs and see how many species you can identify. Look to the skies for our winged friends and see how many you can count. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy, weather proof shoes suitable for uneven trails.

Member: \$5 / Non-member: \$8

SPRING CRAFT NIGHT

5:30-7:30pm April 17
Ages 7 & up



Join us in making some fun Spring crafts! Go on a hike to gather your materials and get inspiration from our 318-acre property. Let your imagination run wild while you create crafts from natural and recycled items.

Member: \$3 / Non-member: \$5

WATER QUALITY SEMINAR

11:00-12:30pm April 21
All ages



Ever wonder what is in your water? Join BRC's Education Coordinator, Stephanie Bernasconi, and learn about what makes water healthy and how you can improve the water that surrounds you.

Member: \$5 / Non-member: \$8

BIRDING WITH THE WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY BIRDING CLUB

8:00-10:00am May 5
All ages



Join associate professor Dr. Josh Auld and the rest of West Chester University's Birding Club as you learn how to identify local birds. Hike through our many "mini-environments" and see how many birds you can find.

OUTDOOR YOGA

4:30-6:30pm May 9
Ages 10 & up



Celebrate the end of the day with a truly organic experience. Every level welcomed for this two-hour outdoor yoga class. Bring a mat, water bottle and comfortable clothing. You will surely leave feeling refreshed and healthy.

Member: \$5 / Non-member: \$8

Pre-Registration required for all programs
Register at: www.brandywineredclay.org or call
(610) 793-1090



ANNUAL MEETING

BRC hosted the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on Thursday, October 26th at the Mendenhall Inn. A record crowd was in attendance to celebrate our mission, as well as honor the following individuals:

- Victory Brewing-** Clayton M. Hoff Award
- Janet Ebert-** Outstanding Conservationist Award
- Charlie Benzel III, Jim and Deri Gawthrop-** Distinguished Volunteer Awards
- Carol Buckley-** Environmental Instructor of the Year
- Michael Replogle-** Teacher of the Year



Thank you to all of the attendees and congratulations once again to the honorees!

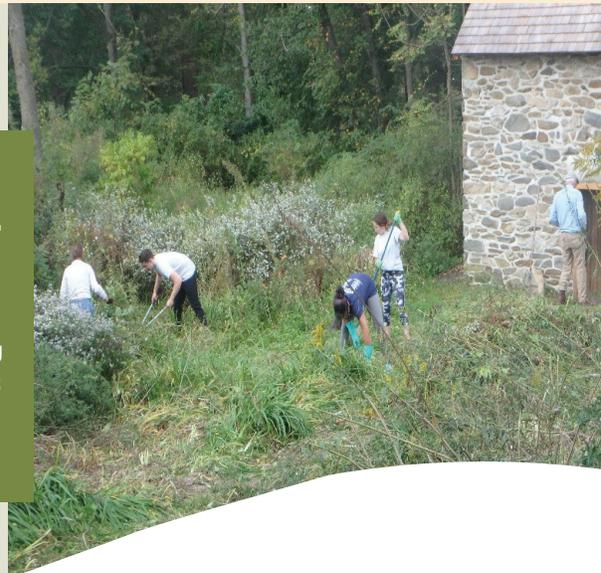
Celebrating the Year's Accomplishments with Friends and Supporters

DO YOU ENJOY VOLUNTEERING & BEING OUTSIDE?

Volunteer opportunities are available for the following events:

- Saturday February 10th**
Polar Plunge
- Saturday March 24th**
Red Clay Valley Clean-up
- Sunday April 1st**
Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point
- Saturday April 28th**
Brandywine Creek Clean-up

If interested please complete a Volunteer Application found on our website at:
www.brandywineredclay.org
or contact **Betsy Stefferud** at **610-793-1090** for more information.



2018 OUTLOOK CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO OUR WORK IN THE BRANDYWINE AND RED CLAY VALLEYS!!

We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our Annual Campaign to help BRC close out 2017 on a financially sound note. Each and every donation contributes to vital environmental education programs reaching thousands of school students as well as multiple watershed restoration projects to improve water quality in our region.

BRC greatly appreciates the generous donor who pledged a \$25,000 leadership gift as a challenge for our year-end appeal.

As of late December, we have raised more than \$106,000.

SCOUT LEADS TREE PLANTING

Boy Scout projects have contributed to BRC's watershed conservation programs for years. The latest project, a tree planting along Red Clay Creek, was lead by Senthil Vel, an Eagle Scout in Troop 6, West Chester. This tree planting was one of several conservation projects required for the Hornaday Award, which recognizes significant achievements beyond the Eagle Scout rank. Only a very few Boy Scouts ever receive this award.

Senthil assisted in the design of a stream buffer planting at BRC's latest stream restoration on Red Clay Creek. He then recruited, organized, and supervised the 56 volunteers who planted over 300 trees and 80 shrubs to help improve water quality in the stream.

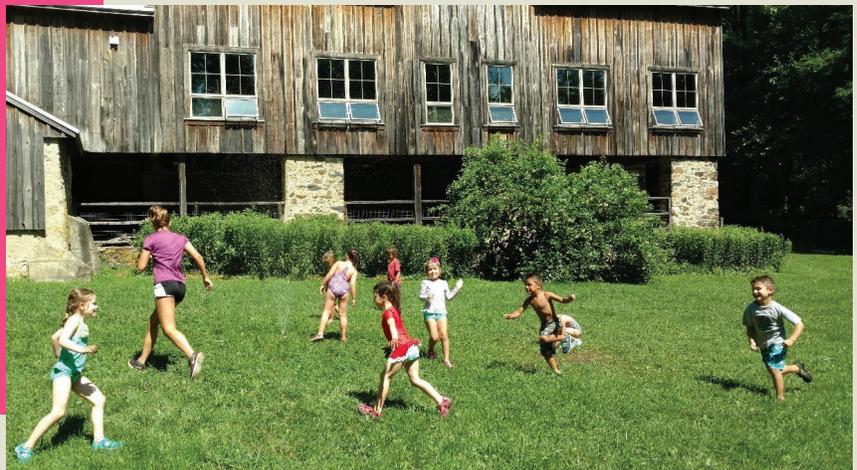
The project, in East Marlborough Township, is very visible from route 926. Together with two projects downstream nearly one mile of the Red Clay Creek is now restored and protected.



Even though it's chilly now, BRC is always thinking ahead to warmer weather!

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP 2018:

February 1st for members and March 1st for non-members



WATCH your salt

Most of us know that watching the amount of salt in our diet is important for maintaining good health. During cold weather months, SUEZ reminds industrial, commercial and residential property owners that too much salt used to keep paved surfaces clear of ice can also be harmful to nearby sources of drinking water.

To avoid the ill effects of run-off pollution, it's important to manage and follow instructions carefully for the proper application of deicing material. SUEZ is working with other water purveyors and government officials to reduce the amount of chlorides that run off into area waterways. All of us can play a role by understanding that much of what we put on the land ends up in the water, and salt is no exception.



2018 WINTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Books & Boots

Thursday, February 15th

Thursday, March 8th

Thursday, April 12th

Polar Plunge

Saturday, February 10th

Trail Run sponsored by

Trail Creek Outfitters

Sunday, March 4th

Red Clay Valley

Clean-Up

Saturday, March 24th

Brandywine Hills

Point-to-Point Races

Sunday, April 1st

Brandywine Creek

Clean-Up

Saturday, April 28th

BRC Trout Rodeo

Saturday, May 5th

WISH LIST

Native Animal & Wildlife Posters

Taxidermy Mounts & Insect Collections

Clean plastic coated reusable grocery bags

Gently used archery & fishing equipment

NOW OFFERING

SCOUT PROGRAMS

Call 610-793-1090 and speak

with Education Coordinator,

Stephanie Bernasconi to discuss availability.

