



Little Elk Creek Preserve Native Meadow



## Land Preservation Update

***Part of BRC's land preservation work includes stewarding our lands and assisting our easement landowners with questions and project guidance.***

When the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) announced an opportunity to fund lawn to meadow conversion projects, we started discussing the options with some of our easement landowners as part of the stewardship of their lands.

Meadows provide greater benefits than lawn for our ecosystem by supporting our birds, insects, and mammals. Pollinating insects use the flowers and plants for food while providing food for birds and small mammals. The grasses serve as homes for insects, birds, and mammals and provide hunting grounds for larger predators.

Humans benefit from meadows as well and not just from the beauty of these natural landscapes. Meadows have an increased ability to absorb stormwater and prevent runoff from large lawns with more compacted soils. Additionally, meadows kept in native grasses and flowers only need mown once a year with an occasional second mowing for management needs. This helps conserve resources by cutting back on fuel used and money spent.

The cropfield at BRC's Little Elk Creek Preserve was converted to a native meadow approximately five years ago with funding from the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation. Now, when walking through the meadow in the summer, you see butterflies and bees flying everywhere; birds swoop

down to eat seeds and insects. Come fall, there is a steady buzz when walking the trail from the many bees and insects enjoying the flowers. During the winter, birds enjoy the seedheads and a variety of wildlife enjoy nesting in the standing grasses and flowers. We choose to mow our meadows in late February/early March as the meadow will then be high enough for ground-nesting birds in April. The annual mowing can be adjusted based on the priorities you wish to focus on by shifting the mowing times to provide habitat to different populations at different times.

This fall we will be converting approximately six acres of lawn to meadow in the Brandywine Creek Watershed under our DCNR grant with an additional property being completed under a grant from the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation. The Dockstader grant will also convert several acres of meadows to more diverse pollinator meadows at Marshall Bridge Preserve and our New Leaf Sensory Garden as well as a native rain garden planting at the Myrick Conservation Center. When visiting these properties, watch for this work to take place this fall and for the meadows to bloom in the spring!







## Summer Camp

*2025 marked our first season with new registration software that was a huge success on all sides... simplifying many manual tasks on the back end and creating an environment where our camp families can monitor and update their own accounts as needed.*

Our Myrick Conservation Center camps ran at 80% capacity, while our Chandler Mill camps ran at 77%. It took a few years since our merger but the Chandler Mill camps have nearly caught up to the Myrick Conservation Center camps in popularity.

We provided over \$12,000 in camp scholarships across our three camp locations to allow economically disadvantaged youth to experience the joys of an outdoor summer nature camp. 63% came from the Coatesville community.



Providing opportunities for disadvantaged youth to get outside and explore nature



Campers and counselors get Wet & Muddy everyday during camp



Forging friendships while pulling debris from our waterways



Another wet and muddy day at summer camp!



## Attention Eagle Scouts

*Looking for an idea for your Eagle Scout project?*

OUR EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT  
HAS TWO!



1. A mobile PVC "water park/misting station" built for our summer camps... easy setup/takedown.
2. 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](mailto:ahart@brandywineredclay.org).**



## Educational Programming

*Scout BSA programs have been completely refreshed to match the new requirements for Cub Scout level adventure requirements. All available programs can be seen in our upcoming educational brochure.*

Our 2025/2026 educational programming brochure is currently available on our website. All our school programs were updated to reflect the new Pennsylvania State standards, plus we've updated our community enrichment programs and introduced some programs for the mobility impaired community.

We are also converting our education programs over to our new system that streamlined our camp registration process.

**If you are an education professional (formal or informal) and want additional information, please visit our website or email our Education Director, Alexa Hart, at [ahart@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:ahart@brandywineredclay.org).**



Discovering the relationship between leaves and flowers



Early education programs



Dipnetting for macroinvertebrates in the pond



Appreciating nature no matter how small it is

## Public Programming



*Public programs are returning. Stay tuned for upcoming programming dates for our early childhood programs Books & Boots and Nature Play.*





## Water Conservation Update

### *New Stream Assessment Data Shows Improved Water Quality in Red Clay Creek*

In 2008 BRC launched the Red Streams Blue program to focus on sub-watersheds to improve “red” streams labeled as impaired by PADEP Water Quality Assessment data to “blue” streams unimpaired status. Since then, we’ve completed 9 watershed assessments and plans and completed over 30 projects on 7.4 miles of streams. This spring BRC repeated water quality testing in the Upper East Branch Red Clay Creek Watershed from 15 years ago and we’re pleased to announce that results show significant improvements in macro-invertebrate diversity and aquatic habitats.

In 2010 BRC partnered with Clauser Environmental, LLC to complete a watershed assessment and restoration plan of the Upper East Branch of the Red Clay Creek. As part of the study, we sampled water quality in 2010 before restoration projects were implemented at five sites and found that the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates (insects whose presence indicates good water quality and a healthy food chain) was low, and habitat conditions were poor across the sites.



East Branch Red Clay water sampling

Since then, BRC has completed seven restoration projects on 2.4 miles of the Upper East Branch Red Clay Creek. These projects included: streambank restoration, in-stream erosion controls, riparian buffer tree plantings and agricultural best management practices to prevent manure run-off to the stream. In 2025, BRC worked with Clauser Environmental to replicate the 2010 study following PADEP’s comprehensive sampling protocol to analyze the water quality to see if water quality had improved.

The assessment and study completed in June found that the stream restoration projects contributed to the improvement of the health of the macroinvertebrate community and habitat quality of the streams. These restoration projects improve habitat quality by reducing sediment pollution in the streams, which allow more open spaces under and around cobblestones and rock in streams as well as reducing nutrients in streams that can lead to an overabundance of algae and aquatic plants that reduce dissolved oxygen in streams when they die and break down.

The presence and diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates such as mayflies, caddis flies and stone flies indicate improved water quality because many cannot tolerate polluted water. Many also live in the streams year-round and are considered good indicators of year-round water quality, much like the canary in a coal mine. Although all of the stream segments studied remain categorized as “impaired” by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, all five of these sites showed significant improvement in habitat quality as well as the diversity of the macroinvertebrate community. In addition, two projects in the sampling area were completed in the fall of 2024 and winter of 2025, so continued water quality improvements are expected in years to come.



Insect molting damselfly

BRC continues to work to convert “red” streams to “blue” and is currently working on designs for new stream restoration projects in the West Branch Red Clay Creek and Radley Run that should be implemented in the winter of 2025-26. This fall we’ll complete our tenth watershed restoration plan focused on the Pocopson Creek Watershed which will lead to new stream restoration projects in this watershed that surrounds our Myrick Conservation Center.





## BRC Plants Over 1,100 Trees and Shrubs!

*This past spring BRC staff and volunteers were busy planting trees at four sites to improve water quality.*

Two projects were the final touches on stream restoration projects on the East Branch Red Clay Creek in East Marlborough Township and Bucktoe Creek in New Garden Township. We were also pleased to have middle school students from Tatnall School volunteer at Bucktoe Creek alongside community volunteers.

The other two projects completed 2 of our 7 acre goal as part of a PA DCNR grant to plant new riparian buffers in the Red Clay Creek. Phillips Mushrooms is the site of one acre of new trees planted at the headwaters of a tributary to Red Clay Creek and provided volunteer and site preparation support. Additional funding and volunteer support came from the water utility, Veolia, who understand that riparian buffers provide clean water downstream for their water intake and water customers in Stanton, Delaware.



Riparian tree planting at Nixon Park

## Creek Clean ups Remove Over 17 Tons of Trash

More than 700 volunteers attended the Red Clay Valley Clean up in March and picked up 13 tons of trash and 530 tires along 106 miles of streams and roadways in both Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Nearly a month later, 237 volunteers removed 4 tons of trash and 140 tires along 59 miles of stream and roads as part of the Brandywine Valley Clean up that included 12 municipalities in Pennsylvania and New Castle County Delaware. While the amount of trash has been trending down in recent years, 2025 saw an increase in the amount of trash collected.



East Hilldendale tree planting



Thanks to Aqua for helping to clean up on the Brandywine!

**This is a reminder that litter and illegal dumping remain a problem for our local waterways.**





## Green Jobs Interns from City of Wilmington Spend 3 Days with BRC

*For the seventh year, BRC was pleased to host City of Wilmington Green Jobs high school interns to learn about watershed conservation.*

This summer interns spent three days with BRC visiting agricultural best practices for clean water at Baily's Dairy Farm (including ice cream), learning about dam removal and learning to fish at Brandywine State Park (DE) and the annual canoe trip with Northbrook Canoe. While many important lessons are learned along the way, the experience of catching a fish, petting a cow and swimming in the Brandywine Creek are memories that will last a lifetime.



Green jobs at Baily's farm



Green jobs canoeing

## Victory Garden

*Six years ago, during the Covid pandemic, BRC started up a "Victory Garden" to help members of our community with fresh produce.*

Since then, we've donated over 6,300 pounds of zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers and fruit to the Chester County Food Bank and Kennett Area Food Cupboard. Many thanks to volunteers at Chatham Financial for helping to plant the garden this spring and summer campers for helping with weekly harvests.



2025 Victory Garden





# Point-to-Point

Photo credits Jim Graham

The oldest point to point in the Delaware Valley, held annually at the Myrick Conservation Center. Proceeds benefit the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and help us continue our work promoting the restoration, conservation, and enjoyments of the natural resources of the Brandywine and Red Clay watersheds.



Foxhound Parade with Huntsman James Dean



Flying over the last fence



Jockey Lydia Aller aboard Mojo in the Medium Pony Race



Freddie Procter aboard Wagner over the stone wall in the Open Race



Best Turned Out Pony in the Leadline Line Pony Race Division – All Russelled Up w/Owen March



Horses and jockeys head up the hill in the Open Race



Jimmy Paxson, Master of the River Hills Foxhounds, with some of the pony race jockeys



Bouncy Pony Races are just one of the highlights of the day





Dead Fest 2025



Summer Music Series

## Dead Fest and Summer Music Series

Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed this year's Summer Music Series and 15th Annual Dead Fest. We hope that you enjoyed the sweet sounds and delicious food!



Amish Trout stocking



## Trout Rodeo

This year BRC had a busy spring with trout. The annual Trout Rodeo was held in conjunction with Anson B. Nixon Park, and we were also able to stock trout in both Pennsylvania and Delaware locations, including one with our Amish neighbors in western Chester County.



Some of our trout stocking crew.





*Please join us as we shine a spotlight on  
our accomplishments over the last year.*

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](mailto:contact@brandywineredclay.org)  
if you are able to donate.**

## Annual Campaign

*We ask you to consider an Annual Campaign donation to BRC in 2025 so that we can continue our efforts to preserve our natural resources for tomorrow, next year, and future generations.*

We would like to offer our sincerest thank yous to Mrs. Jennifer McNeil and Lauren and Perry Bentley on their generous challenge gifts which help your gifts go even further as part of this campaign, by matching donations in a 2 for 1 challenge.

**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.**



FIND EVENTS HERE



## Upcoming Events

*Wild and Scenic Film Festival  
March 19, 2026*

*Red Clay Valley Clean Up  
March 28, 2026*

*Brandywine Hills Point to Point  
April 5, 2026*

*Brandywine Clean Up  
April 18, 2026*





## ***Gifts in Memorium***

*C. Eugene Bennett and  
Edna Bennett Pierce*  
C.E. Bennett Foundation

*Ben Briggs*  
Mrs. Edith L. Hollister

*Joan Caputo*  
Anonymous  
Mr. Ronald Caputo

*Bob Feathers*  
Mr. Robert Fenza

*Susan Hedrick*  
Mr. Richard Hedrick

*Jeff Jefferies*  
Mrs. Charles Jefferis

*Charles Maston*  
Crestline Drive Neighbors  
Ms. Kathleen Ianucc  
Mr. and Mrs. James Jordan, Jr.  
Dante Pietrinferni  
Ms. Dennille Schuler  
Ms. Ann Wilson

*Antonio C. Narvaez*  
Mercedes Narvaez

*Frank Oas*  
Ms. Betsey Mehl

*Jackie Powell*  
Mr. and Mrs. David Carter  
Carolyn DAmico  
Ms. Maya Van Rossum  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fleischmann  
Elaine and Andrea Halko  
Ms. Nora Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. James Jordan, Jr.  
Mr. Raymond McKay  
John and Nancy Jane Newman  
Ricky and Janet Riale  
Robin and Charles Hocking, Sr.  
Chari Towne and Jay Gregg

*Robert Shaffer, Esq*  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Blair

*Margot Taylor*  
Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Alejandro  
Ms. Leah Awitan  
Mr. Bob Schuster  
Ms. Barbara Brooks  
Mr. David Burt  
Ms. Sarah Cabot  
Ms. Molly Carpenter  
Ms. Joy Crompton  
Mr. Seth Fisher  
Ms. Lee Garrett  
Ms. Paula Grant  
Groundswell Charitable  
Foundation  
Jeanne and Bobby Hoffman  
Jean Hoffman  
Ms. Amy Hughes  
Mr. and Mrs. James Jordan, Jr.  
Dr. Ellen Lake  
Mr. Tim Lander  
Mr. Tim Lander  
Mr. and Mrs. Christoph Roth  
Ms. Jane Rubini  
Mr. Thomas Shellenberger  
Mr. Eric B. Sundin  
Fenton Taylor  
Ms. Rosalyn Unruh  
Dr. Anne Verplanck  
Ms. Barbara Wood  
Ed and April Wytovich  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Yetter

*Priscilla Thornbury*  
Ms. Page Bretz  
Ms. Tish Burke  
Mr. and Mrs. James Jordan, Jr.

*Vicki Vinton*  
Vicki Vinton

*Gary Yeadon*  
Gillian and  
John Menzies Cohan

## ***New Members***

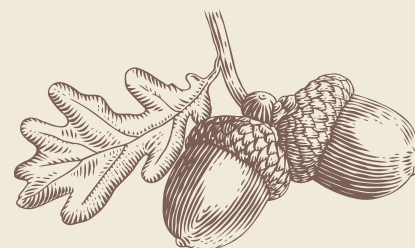
Ms. Heather Aker  
Kathryn Allen  
Corinn Altomare  
Lisa Anzalone  
Joshua Aversa  
Amy Bahgat  
Emma Baker  
Patricia Bannon Kelly  
Ms. Dayla Barnes  
Ms. Erin Beach  
Bob Beichner  
Ms. Marni Bentliff  
Sally Braffman  
Heather Brien  
Christine and Michael Buek  
Elizabeth Butera  
Valerie Butterhof  
Mr. Hugh Cann  
Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan Capps  
Erika Carl  
Brian Carroll  
Joseph R. & Susan W. Casavant  
Wendy Cometa  
Mary Comly  
Ms. Sarah Compton  
Erica Conklin  
Chris Contini  
Ben Cordivano  
Sharon Cullen  
Fred Daddario  
Nancy Danks  
Lydia Deerwester  
Alex DeMarino  
Nimmy Dixon  
Ms. Tiffani Doerr  
Ms. Amy Downing  
Ms. Mary Duplissis  
Alison Durinzi  
William Elliman  
Marion Fielding  
Danyelle Fitzgerald  
David Friedland  
Krissy Froncillo



Thomas Fulton  
Megan Gallen  
Stephen Girard  
Christine Glah  
Mr. Carter Gray  
Ms. Margaret Greecher  
Mr. Benjamin Griffin  
Lisa Halpin  
Amy Harkins  
Kristen Hart  
Mr. Thomas Heiser  
Mr. Jim Heisman  
Becky Hershey  
Ms. Katlyn Hill  
Mr. Jerry Hopper  
David Hostetter  
Dr. Paul Hoyle  
Xin Huang  
Amanda Insetta  
Zhengzheng Jiang  
Gregg Johnson  
Peter Kelly  
Jillian Backall  
Ketlee Staz  
Malcolm Kinnaird  
Madison Kinnard  
Ms. Amanda LaDuke  
Lindsay Lafferty  
The Arts Lark  
Robert Lasak  
Kathryn Lauer  
Jackie Leahy  
Ms. Lindsey Legnini  
Lydia Lindhult  
Sunshine Livelsberger  
Ashley Loftus  
Katherine Lombardo  
Ms. Robyn Luna  
Sean Lynch  
Lauren Magee  
James Mallon  
Ms. Mangum  
Ms. Carly Manning-Smith  
Heather Martin  
Kirsten Mauney  
Mike McGann

Jennie Meeker  
Rob Meitz  
Ms. Hillary Messman  
Mr. Matt Nabhan  
Lydia Nalepa  
R. Brian Neary  
Ms. Casey Norling  
Neil OConnell  
Douglas ODonnell  
Ms. Melissa Ohm  
Dena Omlor  
Sarah Owocki  
Ms. Lorraine Palmer  
Ms. Chloe Payne  
Trinidad Perez  
Kimberly Perry  
Whitney Pfeffer  
Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Pfister  
Jenifer Phayre  
Elizabeth Pinsky  
Jason Pitner  
Ms. Alison Potter  
Sandra Pratt  
Mark Prince  
Carmella Proto  
Ms. Caitlin Reddy  
Ms. Anne Rehill  
Mr. Michael Riordan  
Mathew Robinson  
David Sack  
Daniel Saxman  
Laura Schell  
Philip Scott  
Scott R. Rickards  
Leslie Sheridan  
Christina Sherrer  
Tracy Sisson  
Ms. Christine Sledd  
Daniel Souder  
Nicole St.Amand  
Dan Stabilito  
Ms. Laura Stein  
Satty Sullivan  
Susan Swarter  
Katherine Taubar  
Zach Teufel

Catharine Thurston  
Nicole Toland  
Mr. and Mrs. Collis Townsend  
Patricia Trush  
Diana Tucker  
Charles Vanderslice  
Ms. Annalisa Vapaa  
Ms. Jill Verret  
Joseph Villari  
Richard Voldstad  
Ms. Jacqueline Waller  
J. Wiedorn  
Bill and Judi Wilson  
Allison Wright  
Matilda Yacka  
Gabby Youn  
Mr. Michael Zalewski







# Brandywine Red Clay Alliance

1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road, West Chester, PA 19382 | 610.793.1090

[contact@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:contact@brandywineredclay.org) | [brandywineredclay.org](http://brandywineredclay.org)

Address Correction Requested

## OFFICERS

### President

James Gawthrop

### Vice President

Diana McCarthy

### Secretary

Edward Leo

### Treasurer

David Lyons Jr.

## MEMBERS

Ray Ajalli

Lisa Brubaker

Ed Camelli

Steve Castorani

William F. Cooke Jr.

Amanda DeWeese

Brent W. du Pont

Brenton R. Grant, III

Kerry R. Haber

Andrew Homsey

James E. Jordan, Jr.

J. Kai Lassen

Dr. Richard Lighty

David McKeon

Collin McNeil

Jalessa Rice

John Rush

John P. Supplee

Peter Temple

Tom Varley

### Director

### Emeritus

Harry Alberts

Carl J. Meister, Jr.

David L. Myers

Josephine C. Parman

A. Duer Pierce

### Executive Director, CEO

James E. Jordan, Jr.



## In Kind Item Request

*Youth Camera (up to 8)* – For our public and summer camp programs  
*Sand Painting Light Box (up to 8)* – For our early education programs  
*Archery, fishing and fly fishing supplies*



[brandywineredclay](https://www.instagram.com/brandywineredclay); [#weheartbrc](https://www.instagram.com/weheartbrc)



Brandywine Red Clay Alliance