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# SUMMER CAMP

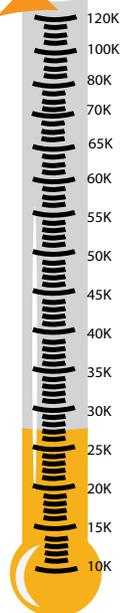
BRC Summer Camp 2017 was a huge success! We had a record high of 505 campers. Our wet and muddy campers roamed through our 318 acres tromping through forests, splashing in streams and skipping through the fields. We had more field trips than ever this year they included: floating down the Brandywine Creek, rock climbing, learning about insects at the University of Delaware, riding horses at Grazing Acres farm and many more. We also had summer camp at our Saalbach Farm location near Coatesville. We had over 50 campers attend over the course of two weeks.

This summer could not have been possible without our amazing summer camp staff! A special shout out to our Coatesville Youth Initiative (CYI) youth participants, Amaya Briggs and Maleena Seymour. Their hard work and dedication ensured that all our campers were wet, muddy and safe.

The education staff wants to thank everyone who helped make summer camp such a success. Don't forget that registration for Summer Camp 2018 starts February 1st!



**125K**



# 2017 OUTLOOK CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

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

We want to thank you for your current pledges and donations totaling over \$27,000!

Your support is very important to us. From environmental education programs for school children or trail maintenance work to building BRC's technology infrastructure, we couldn't do all of this great work without your help.

There is still time to contribute to help us reach our goal of \$125,000 by December 31st.



# YOUNG WATERFOWLERS

by Derek Stoner

| Program For Teens, Ages 11-17!

*Eyes squinting into the bright sunrise and the cold December air, two teenagers peer above the tall brown grasses and look across the scene before them: an expansive wetland, full of chattering ducks, honking geese and soaring Bald Eagles. The entire Bear Swamp impoundment at the legendary Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is full of life and awakening at sunrise. Their parent beside them, these young adults are full of anticipation as they prepare for their first-ever waterfowl hunt.*

In these days of smartphones and digital life keeping us tied to screens indoors, one of the best shows on Earth is watched each year by a special group of people. These are the Young Waterfowlers, a group of youth who connect deeply to the outdoors and continue a grand American tradition.

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and Delaware Nature Society's Young Waterfowlers program is a comprehensive curriculum that introduces youth to waterfowling through a broad array of topics such as wildlife management, wetland enhancement, waterfowl identification, and hunting ethics. For the past two decades, the program has evolved and expanded to keep up with modern changes in the world while still keeping with the traditions of the waterfowling lifestyle.

Every fall, students and their parents gather at Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Delaware for the series of seven weeknight Young Waterfowlers classes. A team of volunteer instructors from the community, with more than 200 combined years of waterfowling under their wader belts, lead the students through hands-on activities that are fun and exciting. Youngsters test their skills by blowing a goose call, carving a cork duck decoy, and training a retrieving dog.

The Hunter Education course is taught in conjunction with the class, and students may choose to receive their hunter safety certification upon completion of the class. BRC Board Member and gifted artist and carver Neil Dougherty will lead the carving lessons, while World Champion Goose Caller and Young Waterfowler class alumni John Walls will teach the finer points of duck and goose calling.

The Young Waterfowlers program successfully brings together a large group of young men and women (ages 11 to 17) each season, and many return year after year to be part of the Advanced Young Waterfowlers. Many graduates return to the class to help out as assistant instructors. BRC shares the leadership of the program with Delaware Nature Society.

"The Partnership between BRC and DNS is one of the reasons for the long-standing success of the Young Waterfowlers program," says Jim Jordan. "The partnership enables us to offer the program to a much broader audience, in addition to attracting instructors who have a vast amount of knowledge and expertise in different disciplines."

Field trips on Sundays help the students prepare for the waterfowl season. A visit to the Ommelanden Range in New Castle, DE is when participants test their skills with shotgun shooting under the tutelage of instructors Jim Jordan and John Campanelli, founders of the Young Waterfowlers program, bring decades of safe shooting instruction to help youngsters master the skill of breaking a clay target.

A trip to the Bombay Hook refuge to gather grasses and camouflage the hunting blinds provides lessons in mastering the art of concealment. The Waterfowl Identification field trip takes the Young Waterfowlers families on a tour of the Delaware Bayshore from

Delaware City all the way down to Bombay Hook, with stops at natural areas to scan wetlands with a spotting scope. The excitement of seeing a wide variety of ducks, geese, and swans is amplified by the additional sightings of wildlife like deer, foxes, and even a close encounter with a Snowy Owl one year.

**And so we return to Bombay Hook where we started our story:**

*An entire Fall season of classes and field trips prepared them for this day- both a graduation and initiation into the world of waterfowling. A flock of Green-wing Teal banks hard to the right of the blind and powers into the North wind. A Black Duck quacks loudly nearby, as the decoys bob gently in the water. Smiles flash as the youngsters prepare for the arrival of waterfowl joined by their guide, with their parents watching over their shoulders. Two generations together outdoors, connected by the tradition of waterfowling.*

**For additional information call 610-793-1090**

Online registration now being taken at [www.brandywineredclay.org](http://www.brandywineredclay.org)

Young Waterfowlers  
Wednesdays from  
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on  
Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov 8, 29 & Dec. 6  
at Ashland Nature Center,  
located at  
3511 Barley Mill Rd  
Hockessin, DE 19707  
\$125, members only

# FALL 2017 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS



## THE UNIVERSE IS OUT THERE!

September 22, 2017

7:30pm - 9:30pm

Members: Free / Nonmembers: \$5



Please join BRC and the Chester County Astronomical Society for a night gazing at our universe. Listen to local experts and learn about the night sky in Chester County. Attendees will also learn how to identify stars and constellations. Please note that this is a weather-dependent event and may be rescheduled.

## FALL CRAFT NIGHT

September 27, 2017

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Members: \$3 / Nonmembers: \$5

Ages: 6-12

Max: 20 Participants

Love Fall? Join us in making some fun Fall crafts! Crafts will be made out of materials that can be found around the Myrick Conservation Center or even around your house! Participants will also have the opportunity to submit their crafts to the Unionville Community Fair for a chance to win cash prizes.

## FALL MIGRATION AT THE MYRICK CENTER

October 1, 2017

8:00am - 10:00am

Members: \$10 / Nonmembers: \$15



During a guided walk, explore the varied habitats of the Myrick Conservation Center as we search for migrating birds like warblers, sparrows, and raptors. Learn about the migratory patterns of birds that travel through the Brandywine Valley and how you can better locate these birds during your own time afield. We will utilize a spotting scope to provide the best views of the birds. Bring your own binoculars if you have them. All participants will receive a copy of The Birds of the Myrick Center guide and checklist. Presentation will be given by Derek Stoner, gifted naturalist and well-known photographer and past president of the Delaware Ornithological Society.

## OWL PROWL

October 23, 2017

Ages: 8-13

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Max: 20 Participants

Members: \$3 / Nonmembers: \$5



Whooo's ready for some fun! Discover local owl species that inhabit the surrounding area. Dissect an owl pellet to find out what the owls have been hunting. Learn how to identify owl species by sight and their nighttime calls. Use all of this newfound knowledge as you hike the Myrick Conservation Center property listening for the owls and other creatures of the night.

## TREE PLANTING

November 4, 2017

9:00am

Volunteer Opportunity



Join BRC staff as we work on the a Red Streams Blue project in the Red Clay Watershed. Volunteers will have the opportunity to get their hands dirty as they assist with the tree planting stage of this watershed conservation project. Space is limited for this program. Please call 610-793-1090 for availability. Free for members and nonmembers.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT NIGHT

December 15, 2017

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Ages 6-13 years

Members: \$20 / Nonmembers: \$30

Siblings half price!

Max: 15 Participants



Looking for some time to yourself to prepare for the holidays? Drop your children off for an evening of fun! Our annual Holiday Craft Night will give participants the opportunity to create a natural ornament or craft and play games. Later, snack on popcorn and watch a seasonal movie. Please dress for an outdoor hike and bring a flashlight or headlamp.

## BOOKS & BOOTS

### *A Story Time and Outdoor Adventure Club*

FOR CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS OLD



Books come to life at the Myrick Conservation Center as Potter the Otter reads a book to inspire. Afterwards, the story continues into a real-life, outdoor adventure. Adult participation is optional. A snack will be provided. Space is limited. Please register by Wednesday before class by visiting: [www.brandywineredclay.org](http://www.brandywineredclay.org) or by calling 610-793-1090. Dress for the weather and don't forget your boots! \$6.00 per child for BRC members and \$8.00 for non-member participants.

Thurs, Jan. 11, 2018  
10:00-11:30AM

Thurs, Mar. 8, 2018  
10:00-11:30AM

Thurs, Feb. 15, 2018  
10:00-11:30AM

Thurs, Apr. 12, 2018  
10:00-11:30AM

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

610.793.1090 | [contact@brandywineredclay.org](mailto:contact@brandywineredclay.org) | [brandywineredclay.org](http://brandywineredclay.org)



# INTERN HIGHLIGHTS

## Susannah Halligan

Susannah Halligan is a Wildlife Conservation and Ecology major at the University of Delaware. For the past several years she has worked as a counselor at the Delaware Nature Society. She is an avid outdoors woman and seeks adventure, getting her start in nature at the BRC Summer Camp and Young Water fowlers program! Susannah is frequently seen with her pet ball python, Archer!



## Tom Oranzi

Tom Oranzi has been a wonderful addition to our groundskeeping crew this summer, assisting with maintenance and upkeep of both the Myrick Conservation Center and the Saalbach Farm. Tom is a senior at Penn State majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Studies, who says he appreciated the opportunity to work out in nature this summer, and learn about the area's invasive plants and BRC's watershed conservation efforts.



## PLANNING FALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

After more than a year's pause in construction activity, this fall will see two major projects break ground. In the Brandywine, the second phase of stream restoration projects on Plum Run will begin with a 400 foot addition to an existing project that was completed in 2012. The new work includes streambank stabilization, in-stream structures, and a buffer planting. Future projects are in the design stage for Plum Run and will ultimately restore nearly one mile of this impaired stream. Together with previous work, the result will be over two miles of stream restored. Funding is from the William Penn Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The second project, in the Red Clay Watershed, will protect and improve about 1,500 feet of the upper east branch just below its source. This site is a horse farm and the work will include streambank stabilization, fencing, stream crossings, a tree and shrub buffer, and improvements to agricultural practices. BRC is partnering with several organizations on this project, which is funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and support from Stroud Water Research Center, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and SUEZ Water.



*This 400 ft. section of Plum Run will be restored this fall with streambank grading, in-stream structures, and a buffer of native plants and trees.*



## INTERN LEARNS ABOUT WATERSHED CONSERVATION FIRST HAND

Jacob Bradley, a senior environmental program major at Shippensburg University, learned first hand how BRC does watershed conservation. As part of his requirement for graduation, Jacob spent the summer getting up close and personal with Red Streams Blue projects, as well as visiting sites that impact water quality. Much of his internship was spent at 11 of the 15 completed stream restoration projects. With a temporary lull in project construction, maintenance and site monitoring become important, and summer is the time for this work. By the end of his internship, Jacob had a good understanding of how projects were selected, funded, developed, designed, constructed and maintained.



## WE NEED YOU!

at the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance's Volunteer Work Day at the Myrick Conservation Center

**September 30, 2017**  
**8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

- 8:30 - Registration and light breakfast with Starbucks Coffee
- 9:00 - Begin work on projects
- 12:30 - Lunch served

Email or call for more info:  
**contact@brandywineredclay.org**

**Sponsored by Starbucks Coffee.**



# ANNUAL DINNER

## & Silent Auction

Presented by Flyway Excavating, Inc

## PLEASE JOIN US!

Thursday, October 26, 2017

At the Mendenhall Inn, Mendenhall, PA

**Look for your invite in the mail!**



## EDUCATION

**AS SUMMER COMES TO A CLOSE**, the Education Department looks forward to the beautiful changing colors of fall and working with school groups.

Our educational mission focuses on making outdoor learning available to all students by providing low-cost programming and scholarship funding. Small group sizes aid in meeting individual learner needs and programs can be taught at one of BRC's properties or at your location.

Please spread the word about our standards-aligned education programs! BRC also offers scout programs tailored to meet badge goals. For more information, please visit our website or contact the Education Department to design a program to meet your specific needs!



## BRC SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

### BRC HOSTED THE EIGHTH ANNUAL DEAD FEST

and the 2017 BRC Summer Music Series which featured returning artists such as Cousin Jake and the West Chester Band, as well as artists new to our event like Shytown, Cameltones and Montana Wildaxe. Nearly 2,000 attendees enjoyed everything from classic rock, blues and funk to bluegrass and hymns.

We would like to thank the following sponsors: Aztec Printing, Draper & Kramer Mortgage Corporation, McGovern Waste Disposal & Septic Company, Meadow Springs Farm, LLC, Phillips Mushroom Company, SECCRA and Trail Creek Outfitters.

## NEW MEMBERS AS OF 8/24/2017

Ms. Joan Baptiste  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bidgood  
Mr. Mark Borosky  
Mr. Howard Campbell  
Mr. Johnny Cassels  
Barbra and Ernest Chisena  
Mr. Mike Christopher  
Ms. Linda Clay

Ms. Amy Devine  
Mr. and Mrs. George Donze  
Mr. Matt Dotson  
Eastern Marine  
Ms. Kristi Keating  
Ms. Laura Novak  
Mr. Gary Matta  
Ms. Marni Mitchell

Mr. Robert Pizzala  
Ken and Diana Profita  
Mr. Brian Rafferty  
Ms. Mary Jo Reick  
Ms. Candace Ritter  
Ms. Carol Rogers-Collins  
Mrs. Ruderhausen  
Susan and Robert Rzucidlo

Mr. and Mrs. David Shields  
Ms. Michele Ulmer  
Kevin and Mimi Walsh  
Mr. George Walueff  
Ms. Kristen Yeager



EITC contributions support BRC's environmental education programs. Students pictured here are learning about stream ecosystems at the Myrick Conservation Center.

## CORPORATIONS SUPPORT BRC AND RECEIVE DIRECT TAX CREDITS THROUGH EITC PROGRAM

We are excited to share that BRC is designated by The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's EITC program as an Innovative Educational Program. This allows corporations to direct corporate tax dollars to directly support BRC's environmental education programs. If your company would like to make a donation or learn more, please contact Eliza Bernardini at 610-793-1090 or ebernardini@brandywineredclay.org .



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

*Address Correction Requested*

## 2017 FALL



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Work Day at the  
Myrick Conservation Center  
Saturday, September 30th

Annual Dinner & Silent Auction  
Mendenhall Inn  
Thursday, October 26th

Delaware Valley 'Night' Orienteering  
Saturday, October 28th

### WISH LIST

Native Animal & Wildlife Posters  
Taxidermy Mounts & Insect Collections  
Gently used archery & fishing equipment

### NOW OFFERING

#### SCOUT PROGRAMS

Call 610-793-1090 and speak  
with Education Coordinator,  
Stephanie Bernasconi to discuss availability.

