

STATE OF THE WATERSHED REPORT UNVEILED AT CLEAN WATER CONFERENCE

Key stakeholders from government, nonprofits, municipalities and the private sector came together on May 3rd to celebrate at the **Clean Water: A Bi-State Solution** conference.

BRC is one of six area nonprofit organizations in the Brandywine-Christina Cluster—a broad partnership conceived of and funded by the William Penn Foundation through the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI)—to improve water quality throughout our shared watershed.

The Clean Water conference unveiled the 90-page “State of the Watershed Report,” which showcases collaborative projects and highlight how organizations with overlapping missions can achieve significant impact by working together.

“Your collaboration sends a signal. Government cannot alone solve these problems. You have to inspire people to care enough.”

Collin O’Mara President / CEO,
National Wildlife Foundation

DE DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin and his PA counterpart, DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell, addressed the conference, putting a spotlight on the power of collaboration across state lines.

The historic importance of the cluster’s work and the engagement of both state leaders was not lost on Collin O’Mara, President/CEO of the National Wildlife Foundation, who encouraged attendees to position the lessons learned from this collaboration as a national model.

Conference attendees spent the afternoon seeing first-hand examples of agricultural and water supply best practices being implemented in the area.

Many thanks to our fellow cluster partners: Brandywine Conservancy, Natural Lands, Stroud Water Resource Center, The Nature Conservancy of Delaware, University of Delaware Water Resources Center.

“We are not just talking about the here and now...we are talking about the future.”

Sec. Garvin (DE)



FOCUS TURNS TO PHASE II OF COLLABORATION

BRC is a proud recipient of Phase II funding from the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI), a program of the William Penn Foundation. This unique collaborative brings together over 65 non-governmental organizations to protect and restore the Delaware River and its tributaries. BRC serves as one of the six core nonprofit entities in the Brandywine-Christina Cluster.

In April, the William Penn Foundation announced an additional \$40M in funding to the DRWI, allowing it to move onto Phase II activities. The Brandywine-Christina Cluster will focus on four priority areas with new restoration efforts, protect 17 additional farms covering 890 acres with agricultural easements, planting over 10 miles of forested stream buffers, and a full suite of best management practices at 41 farms.

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RED Streams BLUE

STREAM SURVEYS SHOW IMPROVEMENT

When the Red Streams Blue program began in 2006, an initial step was to do a comprehensive stream survey in accordance with Pennsylvania state protocols. Those surveys included chemical, biological, and habitat assessments, which then led to a determination of water quality—either impaired (red) or unimpaired (blue).

So far, 17 projects have been completed, and two follow up surveys were made, on Little Buck Run and the upper west branch Brandywine. Clauser Environmental made both the initial and most recent samplings. The results showed improvement at most all survey sites with the most significant improvement in Little Buck Run.



In that stream the lower sites were unimpaired (blue). While many of the sampling sites were still impaired, most all had improved. The survey also showed an area where additional attention is suggested. The entire reports are on the BRC website.

Current Red Streams Blue activity involves designs for stream restorations on Plum Run in the Brandywine and the East Branch and Bucktoe Creek in the Red Clay. These are funded in part by Growing Greener grants from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Recent projects include a stream buffer planting along an unnamed tributary of Red Clay Creek in Delaware, a buffer planting along a completed stream restoration on Plum Run, a buffer planting along Blackhorse Run near West Chester, and a stormwater management project in Nixon Park near the east branch Red Clay Creek.



Volunteers plant a tree and shrub buffer along the Plum Run stream restoration.

Water Clean-Up



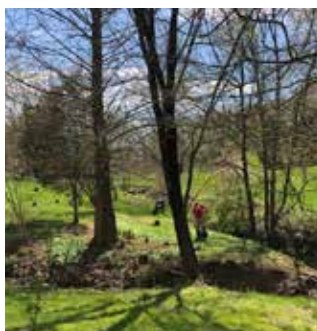
On April 28 over 225 volunteers cleaned 25 miles of the Brandywine Creek. The teams, which included Boy Scout troops, middle and high schools, service clubs, and local companies cleaned from Downingtown on the east branch and Coatesville on the west branch to Lenape just below the confluence of the two branches. A common observation from the teams was how clean the stream was this year. Many volunteers have participated in past cleanups and noted the improving trend, a good indication that the cleanups are having the desired result.

Red Clay Valley Clean Up

Despite rescheduling due to snow, and dreary weather, nearly 650 Volunteers assembled to help with the 30th Annual Red Clay Valley Clean Up. Volunteers collected over 9 tons of trash, including 94 tires and covering over 90 miles of stream and roadway in two states.



Watershed Conservation



In the first week of May BRC worked with the Delaware Nature Society, New Castle County Conservation District, SUEZ, Patagonia and the landowner for our first watershed conservation project in Delaware. 85 trees and shrubs were planted along two tributaries of the Red Clay Creek. In addition, a pollinator garden is being planted which will provide food and a habitat for birds and other wildlife.

BRC joined forces with the Chester County Conservation District and Kennett Area Park Authority to install a “wet meadow” in Anson B. Nixon Park (Kennett Square, PA) this May. A new type of “grow sock” technology was installed that reduces damaging runoff, as well as growing camouflaging grasses over time.



Wet Meadow

CONNECTING CLASSROOM CONCEPTS TO OUTDOOR LEARNING

Bringing the classroom outside!

What started off as a wet spring grew into an ideal setting for learning in the outdoors. Spring is a popular time for school programming both at the Myrick Conservation Center and offsite locations. Whether having meaningful watershed educational experiences or learning about local native culture, students can be found immersed in programs rain or shine!



What a shot! Students try their hand at Lenape skill games.



Right outside your back door! Do you know your local wild animal neighbors? These students do!



Parents learn along streamside with their children. BRC had the opportunity to partner with the American Helicopter Museum for a morning of outdoor programming for Homeschool Day.



Bob Struble and Jim Jordan visited an Amish school to educate students, teachers and parents about stream restoration, why planting buffers and trees matter to water quality and fish and flora habitats. Part of the Cornerstone Grant from William Penn Foundation, their day included stream-side education and trout stocking.



Brandywine Springs School (Wilmington, DE) welcomed BRC for Earth Day 2018. Students and teachers spent the day learning about watershed conservation, planted trees, learned about orienteering, and participated in a wide range of fun, nature-oriented crafts. A costume party and poster contest rounded out the fun day!



SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp has begun! We are preparing for another fantastic summer here at the Myrick Conservation Center and at Saalbach Farm. Currently, we are at 97% capacity for all camps. Thanks to many generous donations, we have been able to award over \$5,000 in scholarships this year.



Campers learning first hand the beauties of the Brandywine.



Summer camp is not complete until you find what lurks in our streams.



2017 campers hoping to land a big fish.

MEMBER AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS



Books and Boots participants getting muddy looking for salamanders.



Derek Stoner giving a lecture about wildlife found in the Brandywine and Red Clay watersheds.

This winter we saw attendees enjoy a variety of public programs. A perennial favorite, Books and Boots, saw many new faces. We also had two guest lecturers come and give talks about local wildlife and fly fishing. We are already scheduling programs for the fall so stay tuned!

BRANDYWINE HILLS POINT-TO-POINT RACES

Presenting Sponsor – Radnor Hunt

The 76th running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point races were held on April 1st. Spectators enjoyed a day filled with exciting pony & horse races as well as a parade of foxhounds, raffle, Easter egg hunt, stick pony races and numerous children's activities.



Union Field Masters Race



Ladies Race

The Point-to-Point Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of the races. Proceeds benefit BRC's environmental education and watershed conservation programs.



Radnor Hounds



Leadline Pony Race



POLAR PLUNGE

Thanks to all of the attendees and participants who helped BRC make this another successful year!



TROUT RODEO

BRC partnered with the Kennett Area Park Authority for the 23rd Annual Trout Rodeo. Near record attendance with more than 300 people who came out to enjoy the sunny weather and catch some of the over 600 rainbow, brook, brown and golden trout.

THANK YOU!

BRC would like to thank the sponsors of all of our recent events.

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Katie Austin
Emily Baddeley
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Robert Bolling
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Sutapa Boyd
Sharon Breske
Susan Brown
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Erica Burry
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Gina Cirucci
Stacy Cordivano
Colleen Cottrell
Dawn Crompton
Natasa Cvijanovic

Patricia DeFeo
Melanie Dellert
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Yifeng Xu
Edward Zunino



NEW FACES @ BRC

JAYME M. GITTINGS

Director of Development & Marketing



Jayme M. Gittings joined the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance in April 2018 as the Director of Development & Marketing. Jayme has spent over 15 years working with numerous local and regional organizations to increase their access to resources, craft and build programs and communicate impact and need messages to the community.

“My professional career has focused on maximizing programs that are critical to the vibrancy of the community,” she shares. “I find great reward in connecting people with the innovative work being carried out around the corner, every day.”

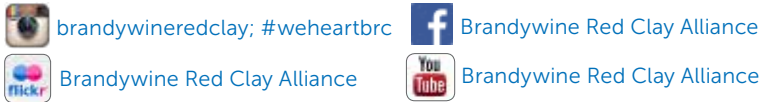
Jayme’s commitment to Chester County—a proud local, born and raised in West Chester—has spanned issue areas including breast cancer support, counseling support for underserved residents, grants for families with medically fragile children and interventions for those experiencing food or housing insecurity.

Jayme’s addition to the BRC staff represents a new venture for her into the restoration and preservation of open space and area waterways, an interest that aligns closely with her personal ethos. “I grew up walking these lands, enjoying their beauty and benefiting from the efforts of countless conservationists before me. Today, it’s my turn to give back and help ensure that the rolling hills, familiar streams and landscape I call home continues on for my children and grandchildren.”

Prior to joining BRC, Jayme served as a nonprofit consultant with JMG Today, providing program and funding insight to Chester County and Philadelphia area organizations. She served as Executive Director of The Kolbe Fund and in various development leadership roles at the Chester County Food Bank, Westtown School, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, and Family Service of Chester County. Jayme received a JD from University of Pittsburgh School of Law and BA from Colgate University. She and her husband, two children and labradoodle live in Coatesville, PA. She is an avid hiker, trail runner and writer.

CONNOR STEWART is a graduating senior at West Chester East participating in their Learn to Earn program. He spent a month shadowing BRC staff and working with us to learn about what we do. He says one of his favorite moments at BRC was attending the Clean Water Conference. We would like to thank him for his help and wish him the best of luck studying Environmental Science at Susquehanna University in the fall.





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Address Correction Requested

STAY TUNED to our website and social media for upcoming events, including our popular sunflower program.



2018 SPRING/SUMMER

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES 2018

FRIDAY JUNE 22ND
BRC DEAD FEST

THURSDAY JUNE 28TH
LUKENS BAND

THURSDAY JULY 12TH
THE MAINLINERS

THURSDAY JULY 19TH
CAMELTONES

THURSDAY JULY 26TH
THE SERMON

THURSDAY AUGUST 2ND
THE SNAP

THURSDAY AUGUST 9TH
THE JOE HILLMAN BAND

THURSDAY AUGUST 16TH
SCOTT PEMBERTON

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BRANDYWINEREDCLAY.ORG

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Gently used archery & fishing equipment

NOW OFFERING

SCOUT PROGRAMS

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SAVE THE DATE

Fishing at Northbrook Canoe
Member Program

July 11th
**See our website
for details.**

