



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS



SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp was a great success for 2015! We surpassed 2014's summer camp numbers and reached 99% capacity for all weeks. Many thanks to our summer intern, Nicole Sundo, and the entire summer staff who safely led nature camp for over 400 campers. We are thankful for the two students from the Coatesville Youth Initiative ServiceCorps program, Ella and Jared, who contributed a total of 432 hours of their time! Full and partial scholarships were awarded, helping 23 children experience outdoor summer camp at the Myrick Conservation Center. An additional 40 scholarships were awarded to at-risk, low income youth attending BRC's nature day-camp at Saalbach Farm in Coatesville, PA.

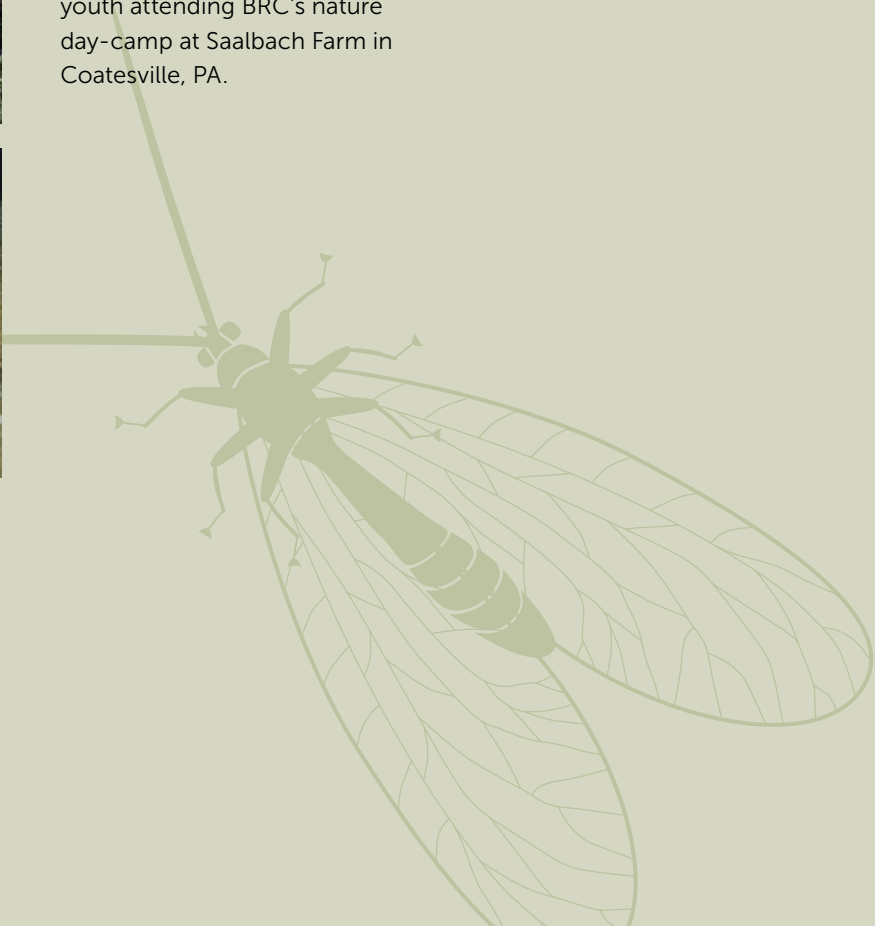
FAMILY AND MEMBERS PROGRAMS

Books and Boots, a reading and outdoor adventure program for 3-5 year olds, continued to be a success through the spring months.

Throughout the spring and fall, monthly family friendly programs were held at the Myrick Conservation Center. Unique outdoor programs included Campfire Night, Meadow Walk, Pumpkin Picking and Hayride, Annual Holiday Craft Night, Target Shooting Day, Orienteering Adventure, Plant Exploration Day, Art and Nature, Monarchs in May, and our new program Miles at the Myrick. We hope to see you at our next family fun program!



From top: Families enjoyed the outdoors together during our Meadow Walk program. Summer campers cool down in the Brandywine.





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Staff as of 9/1/2016

For our watershed community, there are times of great change and new beginnings, which deserve to be called “watershed moments.” 2015 fits the definition.

At the outset, we were two separate organizations with a combined 133 years safeguarding watersheds and educating tomorrow’s environmental leaders. In June, a carefully planned merger created Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRC). By year’s end, our supporters embraced a single vision.

In this Annual Report, we are excited to celebrate with you our many accomplishments, which include:

125

species of birds, which added to the diverse habitats of the 318-acre Myrick Conservation Center, our headquarters and BRC’s largest land trust.

108

miles of streams and roadways in Delaware and Pennsylvania are cleaner today because of the volunteer-driven Brandywine Creek and Red Clay Valley Clean Ups.

99%

of summer camp programs operated at full capacity.

\$653,000

in grants from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania helped Red Streams Blue, our watershed conservation program, continue to grow.

944

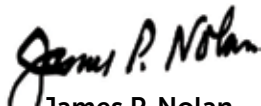
volunteers from our two states and dozens of communities pitched in to ensure cleaner water and preserve natural beauty.

11,000

students from school districts throughout these watersheds learned the value of protecting the environment through our hands-on, outdoor experiential-learning curricula.

You can maintain and grow these and many other important measures of BRC’s impact in 2016 and beyond when you take one important step. Please join BRC or renew your membership today. The steadfast partnership of you and your neighbors has been—and continues to be—critical to our capacity to restore and conserve our region’s natural resources for all to enjoy.

We are grateful to all our generous, committed members and donors. Thank you for continuing to stand with us to support two healthier watersheds with one shared future!


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James E. Jordan, Jr.
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BVA and RCVA Joint Strategic Plan & Merger

Our joint strategic planning effort this year had us evaluate how we were performing as two separate watershed organizations and asked us how we could better serve our local community and meet the increasing challenges that our region faces today. We collected data, researched solutions and conducted thoughtful conversations. After 62 years of collaborative effort, Red Clay Valley Association and Brandywine Valley Association agreed to merge. The union of these two strong, dynamic organizations will not only meet today's challenges but surpass them and achieve new heights.

With the approval of our Boards of Directors, BVA and RCVA ushered in a new age of watershed conservation and environmental education for everyone associated with these two watersheds by merging our organizations in June 2015. It was a long, careful process, but we arrived at its end—which is also a new beginning for the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance.



Merger Committee Members: Left – Right, Jim Jordan, Bunny Meister, Ed Leo, Connie Carter (merger plan facilitator), Laressa McNemar, Eva Verplanck, Jim Nolan, Jack Supplee, Lisa Brubaker, Kerry Haber and Bob Listerman. Not included in photo: Rob Grant and Cynthia Jaros.



BRC receives citation from Chester County Commissioners at our Annual Dinner held on October 22, 2015. From left, Commissioner Kathi Cozzone, Jim Jordan, BRC executive director, Commissioner Michelle Kichline, Commissioner Terrence Farrell and BRC President Jim Nolan.

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BRC's 2015 Environmental Instructor of the Year
Alexa Hart

Thank you for your passion in building relationships and dedication to leading our environmental education programs!



BRC's 2015 Teacher of the Year:
Anne Bailey and Cookies
4th Grade

Greenwood Elementary School
 Kennett Consolidated School District

Congratulations to Anne Bailey, BRC's 2015 Teacher of the Year! Ms. Bailey has always felt a connection to teaching, which she attributes to having wonderful educators. She hopes to instill in her students a respect for animals and appreciation of plants.

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 Ms. Barbara Heald
 Ms. Mary Beth Hellberg
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR
THE SIX YEARS OF THE RED STREAMS
BLUE PROGRAM ARE:

15

stream restoration
projects in the Brandywine
and Red Clay Watersheds

4

stream fencing,
buffering, and livestock
crossing projects on farms

>5

miles of stream improved
and protected

>4,500

trees planted as stream buffers

>\$4

million invested in
Red Streams Blue projects



Top: Uwchlan Hills Elementary School students visit Ludwig's Run project. Bottom left to right: Over 1,300 trees and shrubs were planted at stream restoration projects in 2015; Stream restoration on Upper East Branch Red Clay Creek.

WATERSHED CONSERVATION

2015 was a breakout year for stream restoration projects. Beginning with a project on the upper east branch Red Clay in May, work continued non-stop into 2016. The Red Clay project was followed in June by a stream restoration on Little Buck Run, the second on this stream, and then in October and November with two projects on the upper west branch Brandywine. In December work began on Ludwig's Run, a tributary to the east branch Brandywine in Uwchlan Township. In addition, a stream fencing and livestock crossing project was completed on a dairy farm in Honey Brook Township, which, with stream restorations both up and downstream, improved over a mile of the upper west branch Brandywine. Altogether 2015 saw seven Red Streams Blue projects. Supporting BRC's watershed conservation role, the Red Streams Blue school program expanded to over 600 fourth grade students in the Downingtown School District.

In addition to stream restoration projects, BRC continued to coordinate the Christina TMDL Implementation Partnership. This group of 32 municipalities in the Brandywine, Red Clay and White Clay watersheds is developing plans to make implementation of Pennsylvania mandated water quality regulations more efficient, economical, and effective. BRC also coordinates the Christina Basin Task Force, a group of federal, state (PA and DE), and county agencies which meets quarterly to present new research, exchange information on activities, and visit projects in the field. In March, the annual Red Clay Valley Clean Up was held with the help of nearly 800 volunteers to renew roughly 83 miles of stream and roadway. The annual Brandywine Clean up was held in April with over 180 volunteers cleaning 25 miles of stream.

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Up to 50

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Rene C. Cottrel Dedicated Volunteer Gardener

For more than 10 years, Rene volunteered as BRC's then BVA's vegetable garden manager. His dedication was inspiring to all who knew him. Born in 1926, he graduated from Radnor High School and was a proud Navy veteran of WWII. A member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, his guide to life was "Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve."

Rene passed away in September 2015 at the age of 89. Although he will be sorely missed, he will never be forgotten. A group of past BVA/RCVA employees, along with other volunteers, got together to name our garden in honor and in memory of his generous contributions over the years.

Rene Cottrel (left) with a young volunteer in the vegetable garden on Volunteer Work Day.

In Memory of Robert & Betty Rogers

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Appleton

In Memory of Robert & Alma Struble

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In Memory of William W. Wylie, Sr.

Ms. Jane Wylie

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Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of our donor list. We regret any errors or omissions and request you contact our development office at 610-793-1090. Thank you.



New retaining wall at the Myrick Center office.



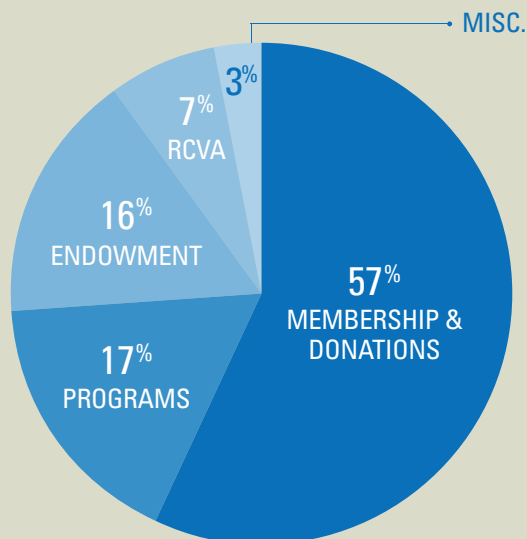
Scouts reclaimed the Pine Knoll

Facilities

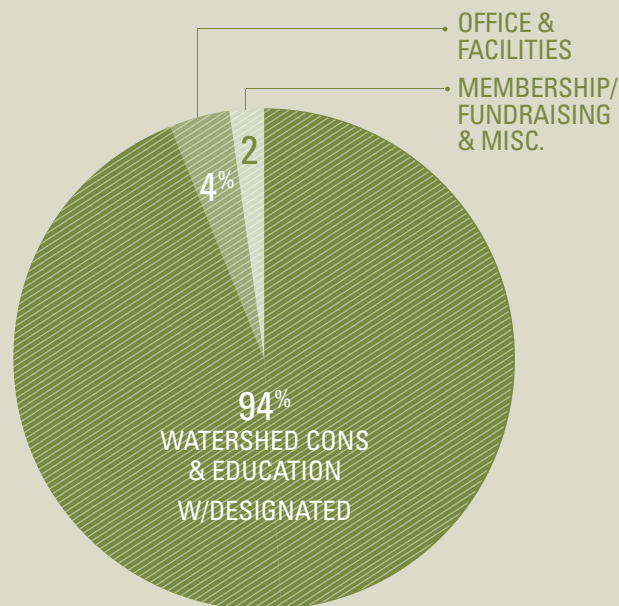
In 2015 two Eagle Scout projects improved the appearance of the Myrick Conservation Center. The first project replaced a failing railroad tie retaining wall with a stone wall that is attractive and durable. The wall is on the south side of the Center office. The second project reclaimed a section of the Pine Knoll by removing vines, invasive plants and trees, and dead limbs. This area is now accessible and an attractive meeting and walking site.

2015 BRC FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Total Operating Income



Total Operating Expenses



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION • DECEMBER 31, 2015

ASSETS	2015
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and equivalents	\$ 1,627,440
Promises to give	-
Total current assets	1,627,440
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	1,767,607
OTHER ASSETS	
Investments	5,175,940
Property on operating lease and held for resale	1,201,825
Total other assets	6,377,765
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 9,772,812

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2015
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 58,438
Accrued payroll	29,613
Security deposit	1,225
Total liabilities	89,276
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted net assets	6,620,030
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,926,006
Permanently restricted net assets	1,137,500
Total net assets	9,683,536
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 9,772,812

BRANDYWINE RED CLAY ALLIANCE

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No. 53

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Clockwise: Getting our feet wet! BRC hosted a Project WET training in partnership with Pennsylvania American Water; Bugs in the water! Students learn about ways to determine if a stream is healthy; Students apply the key elements of focus and trust in teambuilding challenges



SCHOOL GROUPS

Rain or shine, Brandywine Red Clay school programs were in full swing this year! Whether at the Myrick Center or outreach locations, over 11,000 students participated in our natural history and teambuilding programs. Hands-on experiential learning in the outdoors is our core mission!

brandywineredclay.org