



Winter 2020

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance



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BRC would like to thank all of the 2019 board members for their service. No new members were added in 2020.

Red Clay Valley Clean Up

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 28

Join us on Saturday, March 28, 2020 for the annual Red Clay Valley Clean Up! Each year, hundreds of volunteers come together to clean over 90 miles of stream and roadways in Chester and New Castle Counties. 800 volunteers are needed for this endeavor. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for more details and sign up information coming soon.



Help us make an even bigger impact on the Red Clay and Brandywine Watersheds by sponsoring the Red Clay Valley Clean Up or one of our many other events. Contact Jim Jordan at jjordan@brandywineredclay.org or 610-793-1090 to discuss sponsor opportunities.

Celebrating 75 Years of Watershed Conservation and Environmental Education!

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance! Anniversaries are a time for celebration and reflection. As we look back, we are astounded by the amount of growth and impact this organization has made in 75 years. None of that growth would be possible without volunteers, members, and supporters like you.

Throughout 2020, BRC will be honoring our past and looking forward to our future. Follow us on social media, visit our website, and check your mailbox for more updates about how you can join us as we celebrate this milestone all year long.



78th Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point Races

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 5

Plans are underway for the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point races at BRC's Myrick Conservation Center. Bring your family, friends, and colleagues to experience an action-packed day watching pony & horse races, participate in the many family-oriented activities, and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. Gates open at 11:00am and post time for the first race is 12:00pm.

Sponsorship opportunities are available as well as volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering at the races, please contact the BRC Office at 610-793-1090 or email Betsy at bstefferud@brandywineredclay.org.

Too Much Salt *By Martha C. Narvaez,*

Policy Scientist at the University of Delaware Water Resources Center

To ensure public safety during winter weather events, roadways are typically treated with salt to aid in clearing the roadway. While road salt is not the only source of chlorides, it is a major contributor and water quality monitoring has shown that chloride levels are rising in many local streams and rivers. For example, chloride levels have doubled over the past 20 years in the Brandywine Creek at the Chadds Ford monitoring station for the years 1948-2013. Increased chloride levels impact drinking water sources, stream biology such as macroinvertebrates, and alters the

stream chemistry and uptake of other pollutants. Understanding the impacts of salt application as well as sharing management practices that reduce salt application are critical. Awareness that excessive salt application negatively impacts our drinking water sources and our local stream ecology is a critical next step in addressing the rising chloride levels in our local streams. Road salt application must be balanced with the environmental impacts. You can make a difference by reducing your salt use at home.



EDUCATION UPDATE

These warm winter weather spurts have everyone coming out of hibernation! Although the official first day of spring isn't until March 19, it's never too early to plan upcoming outdoor experiences.

Did you know that BRC offers outdoor school programs during the academic year? We serve thousands of students from local and regional school districts. Are you a teacher, school administrator, parent, aunt, uncle, or grandparent of a student in preschool through high school? Do you know anyone in this role? Tell them about BRC!

BRC's 318-acre Myrick Conservation Center offers endless ecologically diverse learning areas. All our programming aligns with state and national standards, offers small group instruction, provides hands-on experiential learning opportunities, and gives students a day outside of the classroom walls. Parents can also attend as chaperones. We can't think of a better investment in a child's education than outdoor learning opportunities to complement their school's curriculum. Affordable pricing and scholarship options are available.

Visit our website or reach out today to learn more!

brandywineredclay.org/environmental-education-programs.

Good News! Our Books and Boots program for children ages 2-5 has expanded and now meets twice a month during the entire school year on the second and fourth Thursdays, September through May. Register online at brandywineredclay.org/events or call Alexa Hart at 610-793-1090.



RED Streams BLUE



BROWNING BARN BIO-SWALE PROJECT

Thanks to a grant from the E. Kneale Dockstader Foundation, BRC was able to address an ongoing stormwater problem behind our Browning Barn. Stormwater from a sloped field converged in a small area causing soil erosion into a tributary of Brandywine Creek. The solution was a series of three bio-swales to slow the water down and allow some of it to infiltrate into the groundwater. A bio-swale is a depression excavated in the soil and filled with a mix of sand and mulch. Volunteers planted 450 wetland plants in the new bio-swales to complete the project.

PLUM RUN STREAM RESTORATION UNDERWAY

BRC continues our focus on Plum Run with the start of construction on 4,400 feet of stream restoration from the former Tighe Farm to Strode's Mill. In this section, Plum Run has steep stream banks up to eight feet deep due to sediment that accumulated behind the old Strode's Mill Dam. This sediment continues to erode into the stream during storm events carrying sediment, nitrogen, and phosphate pollution into the stream.

The restoration work will include re-grading the steeply eroding banks, stabilizing the banks with rock and wooden structures, and reducing erosion with buried root wads from downed trees. East Bradford Township is partnering with BRC and Stroud Water Research to plant over nine acres of new trees along the restored stream to help stabilize the banks and provide shade, leaves, and wood debris in the stream for aquatic life.



Recently restored banks of Plum Run after steep banks have been graded back

The Plum Run project is funded by grants from the William Penn Foundation, PADEP Growing Greener, Pennsylvania DCED, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of BRC, and as we plan for the future, we want to hear from you! Many of you have recently received a BRC survey in the mail. The survey can also be accessed from our website at brandywineredclay.org. Please take 5-10 minutes to answer a few questions about why you support BRC, which parts of BRC's mission are most important to you, and how we can better support you. We will take your responses into consideration as we plan for our 75th anniversary and the future.

Due to the loss of venue, BRC's annual Polar Plunge event has been cancelled for 2020. We are exploring opportunities to continue this tradition in 2021 and into the future. If you would like to join our Polar Plunge Planning Committee, please email contact@brandywineredclay.org or call 610-793-1090.

SPRING 2020 PUBLIC PROGRAMS

BOOKS & BOOTS SERIES

Ages 2 - 5
Second & Fourth Thursdays January through May
(excluding April 9th)
10:00am - 11:30am



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 an outdoor adventure. Please remember to dress for the weather.

Members \$5, Non-Member \$10 Per Session

GARDENING SERIES

Will meet 5 times,
from 10:00am - 12:00pm
on the following Sundays:
3/15, 3/29, 4/19, 5/17, and 6/7



Whether you're a beginner gardener or looking to improve your bounty, come join us as we explore the following topics: garden planning/soil preparation/companion gardening, starting seeds/soil blocking, soil testing/composting, transplanting/direct sowing, and container gardening.

Members \$15, Non-Member \$30 Per Session

WELCOME SPRING – WHITTILING & WALKABOUT

Saturday, March 21st
10:00am - 12:00pm



Come spend the morning with us celebrating the arrival of spring. We will whittle our own walking stick after which we will put it to use on a walkabout on our property.

Members \$5, Non-Member \$10

SPRING CAMP FOR A DAY (OR TWO)

Ages 6 - 12
Tuesday, April 7th and Wednesday, April 8th
9:00am - 3:00pm
(No before or after care)



Staying home for spring break? Send your child to camp for a day (or two) at the Myrick Conservation Center. This multi-age, single group camp will spend the day outdoors exploring all things spring. Please register by April 1st. Come dressed for the weather. Space is limited.

Members \$35, Non-Member \$50 Per Day

PARENT / CHILD CAMP OUT

Friday, May 29th – Saturday, May 30th
6:00pm - 10:00am



Whether you are mother/daughter, father/son, mother/son, or father/daughter, join us for a fun sleepover on our property. Enjoy dinner around an open fire and sleep outside under the stars. In between, we'll play some fun games, go on a nighttime scavenger hunt and even an owl prowl. Rain or shine...we have "rainy day" alternatives. You must supply your own tent or hammock.

Members \$25, Non-Member \$50 Per Person

MEMBERS ONLY – CANOE TRIP & BBQ

Saturday, June 27th
2:00pm - 7:00pm
(Dependent on canoe time)



We love our members! Come get to know our staff on a canoe trip at Northbrook Canoe Company followed by a BBQ. Transportation to and from Northbrook Canoe company will be provided.

\$55 Party of 2
(Let us know if you are a party of 1)

New programs are added seasonally, please check our website for updates!

All programs require registration 48 hours prior to program.

To view our calendar or to register, please visit brandywineredclay.org/events



2019 ANNUAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

BRC's Annual Dinner & Silent Auction was held on Thursday, October 24. Friends and supporters of BRC gathered at the Mendenhall Inn to celebrate BRC's mission, the year's accomplishments, and those who made it all possible.

More than 230 supporters attended the event.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor



FLYWAY EXCAVATING, INC.

Platinum Sponsor

Manito Abstract Co., Inc.

Gold Sponsors

Meadow Springs Farm – Hicks Brothers LLC
Phillips Mushroom Farms

Silver Sponsors

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Victory Brewing Co.

2020 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Annual Campaign in 2019 to help BRC close out the year on a financially sound note.

Every donation contributes to vital environmental education programs reaching thousands of school students each year as well as multiple watershed restoration projects to improve water quality in our region. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the generous donor who pledged a \$25,000 leadership gift as a challenge for our year-end appeal.

Thanks to you, we met the challenge and raised a total of \$101,224 for BRC's 2019 Annual Campaign!

Our Annual Campaign goal for 2020 is to raise \$125,000. Please consider an Annual Campaign donation in 2020 to help us make an impact on the students and streams in our community.

Challenge donations often inspire supporters to give or to give more because they know their donation will make an even bigger impact when matched by another donor. If you are interested in motivating others to give with a challenge donation of any size, please contact Jim Jordan at jjordan@brandywineredclay.org or 610-793-1090.

At the Annual Dinner & Silent Auction, four prestigious awards were presented to members of the BRC community.



THE CLAYTON M. HOFF AWARD

For her significant and long-term contributions to the improvement of our watersheds, BRC presented the Clayton M. Hoff Award to Jan Bowers.

Jan came to Chester County in 1996 to lead the Chester County Water Resources Authority as its fourth Executive Director. She led an integrated water resources planning effort that resulted in an award-

winning Watersheds document in 2002 which helped to pave the way for BRC's Red Streams Blue program. In addition to her work in Chester County, Jan has been active with the Delaware River Basin Commission, the Water Resources Association for the Delaware River Basin, state and local water resources groups, and the American Water Resources Association, of which she was President in 2000. Jan serves as an invaluable asset to the water resources field in Chester County and throughout the region.

The Clayton M. Hoff Award honors the memory of Clayton Hoff, the first Executive Vice President of Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and the man generally acknowledged to be the founder of the small watershed movement in America. The award has been presented just seven times since its inception in 1987.



VOLUNTEER AWARD

John and Meg Rush, along with sons Kyler, Pearce, and Marshall were recognized with our Distinguished Volunteer Award. John, a BRC board member, has taken volunteer service to a whole new level by making it a family affair. The entire Rush family can often be found volunteering and playing a leadership role at many of our events and activities.



EDUCATION AWARDS

BRC, in partnership with SECCRA, were pleased to honor Dottie Graham as Teacher of the Year. Dottie is a fourth-grade teacher at Bradford Heights Elementary in the Downingtown Area School District. As an educator who immerses herself in real-world experiences, she strives to develop an appreciation for environmental education and sustainability in her classes and coordinates school-wide programming that brings science to life.



Alexa Manning was recognized as BRC's Environmental Instructor of the Year. Alexa finds joy in teaching and hands-on, outdoor programs. She appreciates that the simple discoveries made by students never get old. Her prior knowledge and patient teaching style give students the opportunity to get out of their comfort zones and participate.

Thank you to all who attended and supported BRC's 2019 Annual Dinner. We hope to see you in 2020 as we celebrate our 75th anniversary.

NEW MEMBERS (8/24/19 - 12/31/19)

Ms. Antonia Adam
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Altmaier
Ms. Beverly Bach
Carolyn and Duane Benton
Mr. and Mrs. John Braxton
Mr. Jacob Brycki
Adam and Alana Disabatino
George and Caroline Dongarra
Ms. Jessica Dyrek
Paul and Jacki Flanigan

Ms. Jessica Gavrill
Mr. Jim Gawthrop, Jr.
Mr. Justin Gawthrop
Mr. Brian Gawthrop
Ms. Catherine Holley
Mr. Charles Jacoby and
Ms. Sonya Hough
Ms. Haley Jordan
Ms. Lindsey Jordan
Dayan Knox and Nina David

Mr. Christian Lassen
Mr. Tyler Lassen
David and Nina Loudon
Ms. Hannah Metzger
Mr. and Mrs. David Niday
Ms. Elizabeth Ostrowski
Ms. Ashley Parenti
RJ and Lizzie Peterson
Pratt Insurance Inc.

Mr. Kyler Rush
Mr. Marshall Rush
Mr. Pearce Rush
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Smith
Ms. Lisa Smith and
Mr. George Harrison
Barbara Winkler
Paul and Rita Winslow



Volunteer Work Day

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

On October 5, 2019 BRC welcomed volunteers to the Myrick Conservation Center property for our annual Volunteer Work Day. Dozens of volunteers completed much needed improvements such as tree and invasive plant removal, Browning Barn clean up, road clean up, planting of a bio-swale, putting the vegetable garden to bed for the winter, bluebird house clean up, and many more projects that help us prepare the property for the coming year. We would like to thank all the volunteers who took time out of their busy fall schedules to help us keep the property well maintained for all visitors.

DO YOU ENJOY BEING OUTSIDE & GIVING BACK?

We need your help! Volunteers are critical to the success of some of our upcoming events including:

Saturday, March 28th
Red Clay Valley Clean Up

Sunday, April 5th
Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point



If interested, please complete a Volunteer Application found on our website at:

brandywineredclay.org or contact Betsy Stefferud at 610-793-1090 for more information.



REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP 2020:

Member registration begins February 3, 2020 at 8:30am

Non-member registration begins March 2, 2020 at 8:30am



2020 WINTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Books & Boots

Thursday, February 13th
Thursday, February 27th
Thursday, March 12th
Thursday, March 26th
Thursday, April 23rd
Thursday, May 14th
Thursday, May 28th

Red Clay Clean up

Saturday, March 28th

Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point Races

Sunday, April 5th

Trout Rodeo

Saturday, May 2nd

WISH LIST

- Inflatable Kiddie Pools (2 or 3 Ring)
- Water Toys (Water Bombs and Squirt Toys)
- Kid-friendly Binoculars
- Archery and Fishing Equipment
- Nature themed photos taken in the Brandywine or Red Clay Watersheds for BRC marketing purposes.

Email photos to ebernardini@brandywineredclay.org and include where the photo was taken, the date the photo was taken, and how the photographer would like to be recognized.

SCOUT PROGRAMS

We have expanded our Scout Programs to include more than 30 different badges for Girl Scouts and more than 10 different adventures for Cub Scouts.

Visit our website to learn more.

brandywineredclay.org/environmental-education-programs/scout-programs/

