

# *Streamlines*

*Summer 2013*

*Green Valleys Association  
Annual Celebration*

*Thursday, September 19*

*11<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Valleys 5K  
Walk/Run & 10K Run*

*Saturday, September 7*

# Green Valleys Association Annual Celebration

Thursday, September 19 5:30 to 8:30

Join us to celebrate Green Valleys Watershed Association's 49th anniversary. We will celebrate the beauty of the area, the last week of summer, and the work we have done to protect our local natural resources and educate our future stewards. Enjoy great food, drink, and a fun silent auction which will benefit our work. Free child care will be available.

Our celebration will be held at the historic Welkinweir Estate House. Enjoy the enchanting estate grounds and scenic views of the lake and woodlands beyond. Mark your calendars now...this is an event not to be missed!



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual RUN for GREEN VALLEYS

Saturday, September 7

Kids' Fun Run 5K Walk/Run  
10K Run



On Saturday, September 7 GVA will host a multi-race event at Welkinweir. This family-friendly event offers participants of every age and fitness level a refreshing tour of scenic East Nantmeal Township.

The Run for Green Valleys will feature a Kids' Fun Run, a 5K Walk/Run and a 10K Run. Runner registration and packet pickup will take place at the pavilion from 8-8:45am. The Fun Run (for children 14 and under) will start the day at 8:45, and every child runner will receive a participation prize. The 5K and 10K will begin at 9:00am. An awards ceremony will immediately follow the races. The accurately-measured and timed road courses will begin and end at Welkinweir. Your routes will wind through the rolling hills of Northern Chester County, under a canopy of early autumn woodland, past picturesque neighboring farms, charming country homes and over some of the cleanest streams in the area. Dogs (leash required) and parents with strollers are welcome to participate!

**\$25 Pre-registration for 5K Run or Walk**

**\$30 Pre-registration for 10K Run**

**\$5 entry for Kids' Fun Run**

*Day of the race: Adult prices increase by \$5*

*Online pre-registration closes **Friday, September 6.***

Compete for cash and prizes in age categories as well as for the top overall male and female. We have something for everyone so choose a distance that is right for you...join us and bring the whole family! **Register now at [www.greenvalleys.org](http://www.greenvalleys.org) or call Kelsey with questions at 610-469-4900.**



**Register now and prepare to  
Run For YOUR Watershed!**

## *Freshwater Mussel Survey Workshop at Welkinweir*

A sincere thank you to the staff at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) for holding their Mussel Survey workshop here at Welkinweir this past May. PDE is leading the way in the Delaware Valley to publicize the plight of these marvelous mussels. They are also working on ways to reintroduce mussels back into the streams where they once were—a fascinating process which will be detailed in the next *Streamlines*.

### **Volunteers for mussel surveys are needed.**

” Grab a friend, or a group of co-workers, bribe some relatives (you get the idea), and head out to the streams to help us get more waterway miles mapped this year! The link to the web portal is ready and waiting at <http://www.delawareestuary.org/mussel-survey-program>. “ --Dee Ross, PDE



Dr. Danielle Kreeger (left) examines a large *Pyganodon cataracta* mussel

## *Native Trees Buffer Planting along Valley Creek*

A simple act of caring can go a long way. On Sunday May 5, twenty seven volunteers showed how they cared for the natural environment and water resources by planting 200 trees on the Miller Preserve in Malvern, PA. Members of Girl Scout Troops 416, 41044, & 4416 joined members of the Open Lands Conservancy, Valley Forge Trout Unlimited, and Green Valleys Watershed Association on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The group installed 11 varieties of native trees. A wire or plastic shelter was put around each new tree to minimize the impact from browsing wildlife.

Native trees are vital for stream health. At the preserve, trees were planted to replenish the riparian buffer along the Valley Creek which runs through the preserve. Riparian buffers provide critical shade needed to cool stream temperatures just right for the native aquatic species that live in the water. Native trees along streams also provide food for aquatic wildlife, hold bank soil in place, and capture/ remove pollutants that may try to flow into the stream. Trees can absorb and direct stormwater back into the ground replenishing critical ground water supplies while reducing the rate of stormwater runoff. Planting trees along the Valley Creek is a good thing for the long-term health of the creek.

If you have the time, come see what we have accomplished. The Miller Preserve is located on Church Road a half-mile north of Swedesford Road. The preserve is owned and managed by the Open Lands Conservancy. A heartfelt thank you for all our volunteers who made this planting a success!

--Margot Taylor



Above: Plastic tube shelters protect young trees from wildlife.



Left: Members of three local Girl Scout troops participated in the tree planting.

The mission of Green Valleys Watershed Association (GVA) is *to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of water resources in northern Chester County through stewardship, education and advocacy.*

**Welkinweir** -- Our headquarters in East Nantmeal Township, Chester County, is a spectacular property which showcases GVA's Mission. Originally home of GVA founding members Everett and Grace Rodebaugh, the 197 acres of permanently preserved land features a 55-acre arboretum, ecologically diverse wetlands, forested riparian buffers, meadows, and forest habitats. The property hosts our many environmental education programs and features an ever-growing collection of projects that demonstrate sustainable practices.

**1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465**

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**Fax** (610) 469-4990

**Email** [gva@greenvalleys.org](mailto:gva@greenvalleys.org)

**Web** [www.greenvalleys.org](http://www.greenvalleys.org)

#### Officers

Ed Bacon- President  
Allen Heist- Vice President  
John Eldridge- Treasurer  
Jo-an Rectin- Secretary

#### Staff

Victoria Laubach- Executive Director  
[victoria@greenvalleys.org](mailto:victoria@greenvalleys.org)

Dawn White- Nature Education Director  
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Michael Bullard- Watershed Science  
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Coordinator & Nature Educator  
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Kelley Deegan – Horticultural Fellow  
[kelley@greenvalleys.org](mailto:kelley@greenvalleys.org)

Elaine Armbrust- Bookkeeper  
[elaine@greenvalleys.org](mailto:elaine@greenvalleys.org)

## *Welkinweir Volunteer Opportunities*

Becoming a volunteer at Welkinweir has many benefits, including optional education in horticulture and history of the estate house. We will offer team-based volunteer programs based on interest, as well as individual and one-time volunteer events. Each volunteer will attend a welcome orientation; some opportunities will require a training meeting and regular commitment, while others are much more flexible.

- **Horticulture**- commit to a time and join our horticultural fellow, positions can be general, task-oriented (such as pruning) or focused on a particular garden of interest.
- **Guest Tours**- guide visitors through the Rodebaugh estate house or the historic gardens.
- **Team Cat Bird**- maintain Welkinweir's many bird boxes throughout the meadows.
- **Bloom Team**- observe the flowering times of our perennial shrubs and trees
- **Hiking and Trail Team**- participate in monthly hikes to note and maintain areas of need

Our kick-off event will take place the week of **September 16<sup>th</sup>** with an educational walk and discussion, ***Native Plants and Common Weeds: Friends or Foes?***

Please contact **[Kelley@greenvalleys.org](mailto:Kelley@greenvalleys.org)** if you are interested in signing up for this educational service exchange program.

### *From Welkinweir's New Horticultural Fellow*

Hello, my name is Kelley Deegan and I am incredibly excited about my role as the 2013 Stanley Smith Horticultural Fellow. I graduated from Lynchburg College this past spring with a B.S. in Environmental Science, though the majority of my coursework was plant-centered.

I could be considered a bit of a 'late bloomer' to horticulture. In my sophomore year of college, I founded Green Thumb Alliance to repair a campus greenhouse and establish a community garden. This is my fourth horticultural internship; previous I have interned at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Wintergreen Nature Foundation, and at Love Apple Farm, an urban farm and garden education center in the Santa Cruz Mountains of California.

Public Gardens are interdisciplinary by nature, integrating history, sustainability and education all into one medium, while sharing the knowledge they offer with the general public. That is one of the main reasons I was particularly attracted to a career in public horticulture, and Welkinweir's emphasis on environmental advocacy made this position a perfect fit.

## **Welkinweir Summer Hours**

*Welkinweir's arboretum and surrounding natural lands are open **Monday -Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Weekends by advance reservation only. Call **610-469-7543** to schedule.*

*Please respect the privacy of our residents by parking in the visitor parking lot near the pavilion and observing business hours. Arboretum and natural lands maps and visitor etiquette are available at the kiosks near the visitor parking lot.*

*For directions to Welkinweir please visit: [www.welkinweir.org](http://www.welkinweir.org)*

# 2013 Spring Clean-ups



## French Creek Clean-up

Seventeen volunteers, including local residents, members of Camphill Soltane and GVA members, removed 80 lbs. of scrap metal and 21 bags of trash from a section of the French Creek in downtown Phoenixville, for GVA's French Creek Clean-up, one of the many events in the 2013 Schuylkill Scrub.

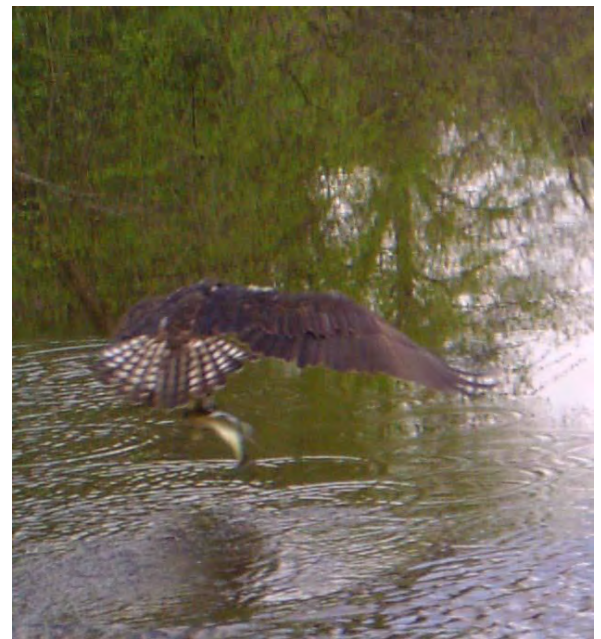
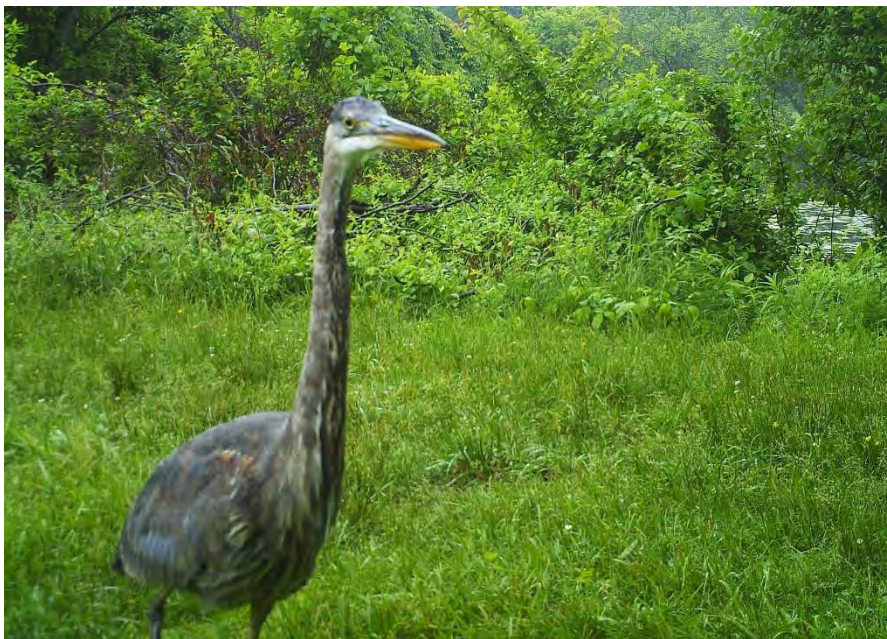


## Great American Clean-up of Pennsylvania

Adopt-a-Highway volunteers removed litter from along Pughtown Road in an ongoing effort to preserve our area's pastoral beauty. XL Group volunteers participated in their annual Global Day of Giving by removing invasive plants from a stretch of French Creek, as well as removing trash from the Pickering Creek as it meanders along Rt. 113. These projects are part of the Great American Clean-up of PA, a collaborative effort to improve communities across the state.



## Wildlife Cameras at Welkinweir



These pictures of a juvenile Blue Heron and an Osprey with prey are just two of the many animals captured by motion sensing wildlife cameras set up to observe the beavers in the main pond at Welkinweir. Thanks to volunteer Matt Moran for maintaining these cameras and going through the hundreds of images they are capturing. See more wildlife photographs at [www.greenvalleys.org/science](http://www.greenvalleys.org/science) under "Cool Topics".

## Environmental Education Intern Joseph Sweet



While completing my degree in environmental science at Clemson University, I found myself contemplating my aspirations for my professional career. I knew I loved the environment and had a passion for conservation, but I was unsure of how to translate this into a career. The more I thought about my personal experiences I realized that a single teacher in my past had made environmental work come alive. I realized that I would love to do the same for future generations. I was extremely fortunate to have found and secured an environmental education internship at GVA. Though I have only been here from late spring through summer, I am already able to see the influence an environmental educator can have on their students.



Top: Going “batty”: Katie McGrath, third from left, led three educational programs to fulfill her Girl Scout Silver Award requirements.

Middle, left: Where does the pollution go? Learning through an interactive model.

Middle, right: Examining aquatic insects through the microscope.

Bottom: Learning about bees. Campers were able to dress up in professional bee-keeping gear.

Working at GVA has been an incredible experience. I taught middle school groups about the importance of trophic webs in pond ecosystems, as well as how to properly sample water sources and reduce pollution in our precious watersheds. For the second half of the summer, I have primarily been working as a Senior Camp Counselor for GVA’s weekly summer programs. Most of my time has been spent with our “Herons” group, consisting of middle school (6th and 7th grade) students - both a challenging and rewarding age group to work with. For the last two weeks of camp I worked with some of our younger age groups, and have found that I enjoyed both ages for different reasons.

Following the internship I will be returning to Summerville, SC where I am originally from, and will continue my search for further employment. I am not sure where that will take me, but I am hoping to move out West. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at GVA, and am extremely grateful to Dawn White and the rest of the GVA staff for affording me this opportunity.

## Thank You...

Many thanks go out to the following individuals and groups for their contributions to GVA’s 2013 Summer Nature Day Camps:

- All Senior, Junior, and Counselors in Training for their hard work and dedication!
- The Prizer family for welcoming campers to their property, and Jim Moore for hosting the 6th and 7th grade group’s activities at the Marshlands Conservancy.
- Guest presenters: Katie McGrath, Willistown Conservation Trust, Nick Zurga, Ed Bacon, Joanne Wagner, Academy of Natural Sciences, Sun Bear Apiary, Bob’s Critters, Great Valley Nature Center, GeoVentures, Inc., Pennsylvania Game Commission.
- Funders: National Penn Bank, Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, The H.O. West Foundation, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Richard I.G. Jones Fund, Wegman’s, GIANT Food Stores, Weis Markets, Acme Markets.

## *September - December 2013*

For all program information and registration, please contact Dawn White at 610-469-8646, or e-mail at [dwhite@greenvalleys.org](mailto:dwhite@greenvalleys.org).

### **Community Nature Programs at Welkinweir**

#### ***Guided Nature Walks***

Saturday mornings. FREE

Enjoy guided walks with volunteer naturalists from Valley Forge Audubon to observe a wide variety of plants, and search for resident birds and other wildlife. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Programs run rain or shine; appropriate for ages 6 to adult; no experience needed.

September 14, 8:00 a.m. led by Rick Keyser

September 23, 8:00 a.m. led by Sue Lucas

October 12, 9:00 a.m. led by Sarah Neto

October 26, 9:00 a.m. led by Steve Strawbridge and Tom Reeves

November 9, 9:00 a.m. led by Rick Keyser

November 23, 9:00 a.m. led by Louise and Don Gensemer

### **Children's Nature Programs at Welkinweir**

Children can discover the wonders of nature with their parents during these fun and educational programs. Each class includes a snack and theme-based, age-appropriate activities, including a nature discovery walk, story, and a craft. Non-participating siblings are welcome. Fees for children only: \$8 GVA members, \$10 nonmembers. Advanced registration required. All classes are independent of one another.

#### ***Little Wonders Classes (ages 2 and 3 with caregiver)***

*Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.*

#### ***Kinder Nature Classes (ages 4 and 5 with caregiver)***

*Wednesdays from 12:30-1:45 p.m.*

October 9 – Sensational Senses

October 16 – Happy Homes

October 23 – Going Batty

October 30 – Amazing Owls

November 6 – Nature's Artists

November 13 – Backyard Birding

November 20 – Creature Coverings

November 27 – Animals in Winter

### **Library Programs: Little Sprouts Nature Classes**

Little ones and their parents can learn about nature together through stories, interactive demonstrations, animal artifacts, and take-home crafts. For ages 3-6 with caregiver. All classes are independent of one another. FREE.

#### **At the Henrietta Hankin Library**

*Mondays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.*

September 9 – Bird Basics

October 21 – Creepy Creatures

November 11 – Art in Nature

December 9 – Amazing Reptiles

Advanced, online registration required. Visit [http://www.ccls.org/cwo/Find\\_a\\_Library/HH](http://www.ccls.org/cwo/Find_a_Library/HH).

#### **At the Phoenixville Public Library**

*Fridays from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.*

September 20 – Sensational Senses

October 18 – Animal Disguises

November 15 – Track Detectives

December 20 – Nature's Artists

Advanced registration required by contacting the library at 610-933-3013 ext. 24.

**Join GVA or Renew Your Membership Today! Online Membership Available**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would prefer to pay by:  
 Check (made payable to GVA)     Visa     MasterCard  
 Discover     American Express  
 Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. \_\_\_ / \_\_\_    CID \_\_\_\_\_    Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP includes** tri-annual newsletter subscription, notice of events and programs, and reduced rate to special programs, workshops, and summer environmental camp.

- Membership levels (please check one):
- Individual..... \$45
  - Supporter..... \$60
  - Naturalist..... \$100
  - Environmentalist..... \$250
  - Protector..... \$500
  - Preservationist..... \$750
  - Steward..... \$1,000

I am a:     New Member     Renewing Member  
 Become a "Friend" with an additional contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (tax-deductible, non-membership support)  
 Please notify me of GVA volunteer opportunities.

Detach this form and mail with payment to:  
**Green Valleys Watershed Association**  
**1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465**

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Your membership information is not shared*

Online membership also available at [www.greenvalleys.org](http://www.greenvalleys.org)

*Dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Green Valleys Watershed Association is a registered charitable organization. A copy of the registration and financial information is available by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

**Summer 2013**

Visit our website at [www.greenvalleys.org](http://www.greenvalleys.org)

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