



# Streamlines

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Spring 2011

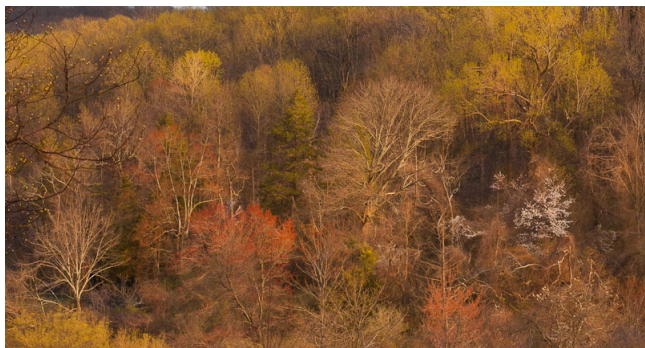
from Green Valleys Association at Welkinweir

## Come celebrate spring

Spring has come at last. In the gardens the “little” bulbs—aconite, snowdrops, crocus, and scilla—were the first to show color, along with the fragrant witch hazels. The hills were red with the flowers of native red maple followed by tulip trees leafing out, giving the hills a green haze of the first spring leaves. Peepers and toads are trilling in the various ponds and wet-

lands while the red-wing blackbirds call from the cattails. Tree swallows and bluebirds have been spotted checking out the nest boxes, and the osprey has returned to fish in the main pond. Our beaver is busy with engineering projects, while the yellow flowers that herald spring—daffodils, forsythia, winter hazel—bloom.

**National Public Garden Day** on Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> showcases public gardens’ valuable contributions to the community, like GVA’s home Welkinweir, with its permanently preserved open space, well maintained historic structures, wildlife habitat conservation, and promotion of environmental awareness through education and demonstration.



Welkinweir hillside in spring. Photo: Ed Bacon

**Make your membership go farther!**

### Martin Foundation Challenge

The George & Miriam Martin Foundation has made a challenge grant of \$5,000, matching increases in membership renewal levels.

For instance, if your current membership level is at \$100 and you renew at any higher level they will match your generosity.

Thank you for your continued support and thank you to the George & Miriam Foundation for their generous support over the years.

**SpringFest** on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is GVA’s annual environmental festival. This free, family fun event highlights Green Valleys’ many educational activities. See “Celebrate,” on Calendar insert

## Stormwater: making the land/water connection

**Trees please.** Research on local watersheds<sup>1</sup> has shown that the percentage of forest cover for a watershed or sub-watershed is directly related to water quality. Forest cover of at least 40% or greater in the entire watershed is generally necessary to attain High Quality or Cold Water designations, and 68% or greater in the entire watershed is needed for Exceptional Value designation. **Streamside forests**, or forested riparian buffers, are also directly related to water quality, with at least 65% coverage of 100-foot buffers being necessary for excellent water quality<sup>2</sup>.

**GVA is currently implementing three riparian buffer projects** in our watersheds. Funding for plant materials is being provided by TreeVitalize through the Chester County Conservation District. To identify

future sites for riparian buffers, we are meeting with townships and land conservation organizations; sites will be under conservation easement, located in headwaters or steep slopes, and easily accessible. Adult education programs on the many benefits of watershed restoration practices are also being presented. This combination of outreach with project implementation is a good way to build community support.

**1,000,000 Trees.** That is the goal of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society’s (PHS) new campaign, *Plant One Million*. Why one million? The Greater Philadelphia Region has lost millions of trees in recent decades due to development. Several years ago, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural

Resources responded with TreeVitalize, a public/private partnership led by PHS in southeastern Pennsylvania that has added 150,000 trees. Gardeners know that trees provide shade and beauty and serve as visual focal points. But more importantly, trees are environmental powerhouses. The US Forest Service estimates that 100 trees remove 1.2 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year and 130 pounds of other pollutants. The US Forest Service calculates that 100 mature trees capture 77,000 gallons of rainwater annually. And while they’re absorbing all that water, trees filter out harmful substances that rainwater picks up as it travels across the ground (known as “non-point source pollution”), helping to keep our rivers and streams healthy.<sup>3</sup>

See “Stormwater” page 3

## GREEN VALLEYS ASSOCIATION at WELKINWEIR

**Green Valleys Association's mission** is to protect and preserve the quality and quantity of water resources in northern Chester County through advocacy and education.

### Welkinweir

Our Welkinweir 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. See hours p. 7.

### Officers

Dave Zelinger - President

Chris Orzechowski - Vice President

Deb Eddinger - Vice President

Lawrence Newman - Treasurer

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**Streamlines**, our quarterly newsletter, highlights local and regional activities focusing on water resource conservation and preservation. Available through membership or online at our website.

## New amphibian migration site

"How many frogs will we see?" "Do we have any rare amphibians?" "Will there be salamanders?" "Why do they like nasty weather?" "How do you know when they will cross the road?" These are some of the questions that volunteers asked before being called out of their houses on a dark, cold, rainy night to help with the new Hollow Road Amphibian Crossing Project.

The late winter and early spring was full of excitement, amusement, and learning the answers to those questions. It was also a time when the local community came together. The project of ushering migrating amphibians across the road was a joint effort of the West Vincent Environmental Advisory Council and township supervisors, the West Vincent Police Department, and Green Valleys Association. The goal was to protect the amphibians—frogs, toads, and salamanders—that must cross Hollow Road near Horseshoe Trail to get from their homes in the woods to their wetland breeding grounds just above the large pond located there.

I came across this migration route by accident in the early spring of 2010, as my sister and I were driving home from a township meeting. Suddenly, in the car's headlights, we saw dozens of small, hopping bodies! I got out of the car, and while my sister drove slowly and carefully I tried to help the creatures move out of the path of our tires—not easy or very effective, but it was the beginning of the migration protection project. Fortunately, we had the benefit of learning from Kim White, who has been doing the same thing in North Coventry, at a location north of St. Peter's Village, for the last four years.

Kim told us that township government support was important, and we found that she was absolutely right. Among other things, Police Chief Mike Swininger made sure we were thinking of volunteer, as well as amphibian, safety. Hollow Road is a township road and so the supervisors have the authority to close it. Since the migration only takes place after dark, in rain or fog, when the temperature is above 36°F, there are relatively few nights we would have to close the road. The supervisors were pleased to help by closing the road for several hours on the four nights when the migration happened; thus the only traffic we had to look out for was people who live in the closed section.

A total of 33 volunteers recorded 1 tree frog, 42 live spring peepers and 3 dead ones, 29 wood frogs, 23 American toads, 1 pickerel frog, 1 green frog, 1 leopard frog, 1 unidentified frog, and 1 red eft (the juvenile form of the eastern newt).

Evidently, American toads don't need the rain that the other amphibians do. They were spotted vigorously crossing Hollow Road when it was not closed to cars. We need to learn more. The most moving part of this venture was seeing young children, teenagers, and adults standing out in the cold, dark, rain, helping other creatures, and grinning as if they'd never been happier. (More migration info. on page 7)

- Harriet Stone

*Six employees from Fox Rothschild LLP in Eagle PA had a great time when they volunteered to prepare the Children's Garden and other perennial plantings at the Education Barn for spring. From left to right: Ashley Lerch, Stephanie Deviney, Alison Heistand, Beth Throne. Not pictured: Carolyn Esch and Randy Schauer.*



## “Stormwater,” from p. 1 Schuylkill Scrub 2011

### Non-Point Source Pollution Impacts Water Quality

Monthly water testing began at five locations along the French Creek, chosen because the PA DEP’s water quality testing showed serious impairment at three sites. Water chemistry data and the characterization of land uses will begin the process of learning what causes these impairments and how to correct them. GVA’s new water testing program adds an important capacity to the organization. By using professional equipment, EPA-recognized methods, and a comprehensive QA/QC process, we are now able to collect high quality data.

We have also added two field kits for our stream and pond study programs offered on-site to middle school classes. The modern equipment in these kits is easy to use and accurate, giving students a real science based learning experience.

We would like to thank the following corporations for their support of this program:

- Columbia Transmission - funding for our Water Monitoring program
- Hach USA – portable instrument
- Google – a Google Earth Pro license

### PA Turnpike Mile 320 to Mile 326 Total Reconstruction

With construction slated to begin in 2013, many of the stormwater impact issues raised have been addressed by the latest design. One issue still outstanding is Valley Creek Coalition’s claim that the Turnpike is not managing the run-off volume that would be generated in certain areas. The Coalition is proposing that the PA Turnpike Commission abandon their current 26-foot wide median design and go back to the existing 16-foot median. This reduction of the median footprint by 7.88 Acres (6.5 miles X 10 feet wide) would reduce the project’s impervious impact by nearly 40%. Other issues are how the post-construction performance of the stormwater controls will be measured and what corrective steps will be taken should any problems arise.

*Footnotes at right:*

April 15<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>

In 2009, the Hopewell Big Woods Partnership (Hay and French Creek Watersheds) identified the need for a more cooperative watershed-based approach to the problem of litter and illegal dumping. They wanted to promote and encourage more diverse groups (civic, business, youth, non-profit), to participate in local cleanup events and submit cleanup data. **Thanks to the collaborative efforts of many dedicated individuals and organizations, an improved and united effort now exists as the annual springtime “Schuylkill Scrub.”**

The common goal of the Scrub is to clean miles of road, stream and parkland, preventing as much trash as possible from making its way into our water resources and keeping our land clean litter-free and beautiful. The Scrub encourages and supports cleanup events throughout the entire Schuylkill Watershed, from the headwaters of the Schuylkill River down to the confluence of the Delaware River in Philadelphia. Annual “yields” from the cleanup are impressive and of immediate benefit to the entire Schuylkill River watershed!

By creating connections between participants within the Schuylkill watershed, groups and individuals become part of a larger network of people that work to protect our land and water resources. Groups that register with the Schuylkill Scrub will also be automatically registered with the **Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania**, a state-wide effort. Gloves, safety vests, outreach literature, and trash pickup are available for groups through PennDOT’s *Keep America Beautiful* program and private landfill sponsored *Pick It Up PA Days* program.

To register for the 2011 Schuylkill Scrub, visit [www.schuylkillscrub.org](http://www.schuylkillscrub.org), click on the ‘SIGN UP’ page and submit your cleanup information electronically. Once registered, each group or individual will also be entered into a larger national database so we can track our progress each year. If you are looking for an event to volunteer for as an individual, and need some help finding one, check out our Scrub 2011 Blog, and search under “Find An Event.”

Please join our effort to keep streams clean by registering your group today!

- *Meredith Chalfant, Volunteer 2011 Schuylkill Scrub Coordinator*



*Another one hundred seventy-five trees were planted at Griffith Farm, West Vincent Township, at the headwaters to the Birch Run, by the St. Matthews Lutheran Youth Group.*

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.stroudcenter.org/schuylkill/Schuylkill\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.stroudcenter.org/schuylkill/Schuylkill_Summary.pdf) fig 7

<sup>2</sup> IKONOS imagery for resource management: Tree cover, impervious surfaces, and riparian buffer analyses in the mid-Atlantic region, Goetz and others 2003. [http://calval.cr.usgs.gov/JACIE\\_files/JACIE04/files/3Goetz5.pdf](http://calval.cr.usgs.gov/JACIE_files/JACIE04/files/3Goetz5.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://philadelphiagreen.files.wordpress.com/2011/02/milliontreestory.pdf>

# education

## Get Ready for Summer Camp!

*Spaces still available in all 10 weeks.*

Summer Nature Camps encourage children's natural curiosity of the outdoors by engaging them in fun and educational activities. Each of the themed, one-week camps balance structured activities like nature walks, guest presentations, educational games, craft projects, free play, and exploration of Welkinweir's 197-acres of forest, meadows, and waterways. At the same time, they aid children in building social and life skills such as communication, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Please visit our website to download a brochure and registration forms, or contact us via phone or email. Completed forms are accepted via regular mail, email or fax. Be sure to schedule a visit to one of our **Summer Camp Open Houses**, scheduled for **Saturday, April 16 and Saturday June 11, both from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** Whether you're new to nature camp or are returning for another exciting summer, the open house provides an opportunity for parents to visit our facilities, walk the grounds, and talk with GVA's Education Director to get camp questions answered and ease any apprehensions campers may have. If you wish to explore Welkinweir at another time, the property is open to the public Monday through Friday, with weekends reserved for GVA members.

## Make a difference

*Donate to the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund*

Please consider making a difference in a child's life by contributing to GVA's **Summer Camp Scholarship Fund**. A donation of \$200 will send one child to one week of camp, but other amounts are appreciated and can be combined to provide a full scholarship. Help us reach our goal of sending at least five underprivileged children to camp this year. All donations are tax-deductible. Send your contribution to *GVA's Summer Camp Scholarship Fund, 1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465.*

## Education Building gets face-lift

In March, GVA's Education Building (the white building next to the parking lot) received a huge facelift. The inside is now brighter and cheerier, thanks to fresh coats of pale yellow paint and a sanded and refinished floor. The windows are now framed and have window sills as well (perfect homes for plants!) The classroom is used for our education programs, and the office serves as the summer camp staff headquarters. Thanks to Jim Deevy and Matt White for this much-needed makeover!

### Donations sought for new or gently used items:

- 2 camping tents (1-2 person)
- 2 canopies (10'x10')
- Painting smocks (child or adult sizes)
- Crayons and washable markers
- Medium to large area rug for education building

### Thank you to --

**Elaine Husted** for a bird song identification kit.

**Carrie Grabowicz** for children's storybooks.

## Nature Explorers Clubs—Continuing education after hours

Our after-school **Nature Explorers Clubs**, begun in 2006, offer 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at East Vincent, and West Vincent



*Discovering an early woodland flower.*

Elementary Schools, healthy, fun, indoor and outdoor activities focused on a specific nature theme each week, that meet the District's

Science Benchmarks for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.

So far, the 15 students in each club have learned about and explored the school grounds for flowers in bloom, animal homes, tracks, and the changes of seasons through our weekly observation of trees they "adopted" on school grounds.

They enjoyed Native American stories, created their own short stories and plays with puppets, and learned more about local wildlife by touching deer pelts, snake skins and turtle shells. For their own backyards, they created hanging bird

nesters which provide songbirds with nesting material, learned how weather is forecast by examining a wireless weather station, observing clouds, and made wind vanes. Plant life, insects, and water activities are the topics planned for the remaining sessions.



*Making bird nesters.*

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

## Phoenixville Middle School Environmental Club

The end of winter marked the beginning of this year's Environmental Awareness Club at Phoenixville Middle School. Under the leadership of GVA educator Alex Swavely, over a dozen 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students meet every Thursday after school until the end of the school year. Green Valleys started the Club in the fall of 2002. Based on recommendations from last year's instructor, Laura Yayac, this year's club is more structured, focusing on issues that impact our waters through a series of in-class lessons, hands-on activities, journaling, field trips, demonstrations, hikes and other outdoor activities exploring our watersheds, along with team-building exercises that encourage lasting friendships.

Starting with an introduction to watersheds, each student then calculated his/her carbon footprint by filling out a questionnaire. They were amazed at how much land and energy is required to support their existence, prompting many of the students to vow to change their habits and become more "green." A trip to Valley Forge National Historic Park to learn about the history of the park and explore the park's natural lands was next for the club. They hiked the woods, learning about the successional stages of forests, spotted signs of wildlife, and saw some early signs of spring.

An *EnviroScope* demonstration brought the focus to the students' local community. They learned how different human activities—irresponsible construction, wetland destruction, fertilizers, oil spills, or dumping pollutants into storm-water drains—can affect local water resources. This was followed with a walk around Phoenixville to observe some of these activities, and students were challenged to come up with ways these problems can be better handled. By answering questions about their surrounding environment and by seeing how the developed world impacts the natural world, students became more in touch with their community.

Environmental Club has several more exciting educational events planned for the rest of the year, including a geocaching adventure at Black Rock Sanctuary, a fly-tying demo with representatives from Trout Unlimited, water quality monitoring in the Pickering Creek, and a canoe trip! At the end of the Club, the students will give a presentation to members of the School Board about what they've learned and the experiences they've had. This year's Environmental Club will surely continue to stimulate learning in fun and interactive ways. GVA thanks all the funders of this program: The Phoenixville Area School District, The Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

- Alex Swavely

## Spring Bird Walks at Welkinweir

Join our volunteer naturalists for our seasonal **Bird Walks** (formerly Wildlife Walks) on the beautiful grounds of Welkinweir. These free programs give visitors the chance to view the wide variety of songbirds, waterfowl and raptors that migrate through Welkinweir and call it home. Many other wildlife species are easily observed during the spring season as well. Walks are appropriate for ages 6 to adult and begin in the visitor parking lot. Bring your binoculars and field guides if you have them. No birding experience is necessary.

For dates and details, please see the Calendar insert.

## Little Sprouts Nature Programs

GVA's nature programs at the Phoenixville Public Library and the Henrietta Hankin Library continue to provide children and their parents with fun and educational ways to learn about the natural world. In February, GVA began a series of new weekday programs, **Little Sprouts**, for children ages 3 to 5. The programs educate and entertain young learners and their parents with nature themes that include stories, songs, puppets, and real animal artifacts.

Little Sprouts takes the place of GVA's Saturday programming at both libraries, as efforts were re-directed to a more established, captive audience. The programs run from February through April and are free to the public, thanks to last year's donations from Dave and Cheryl Zelinger and the Johnson & Johnson Company, and recent funding from the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation.

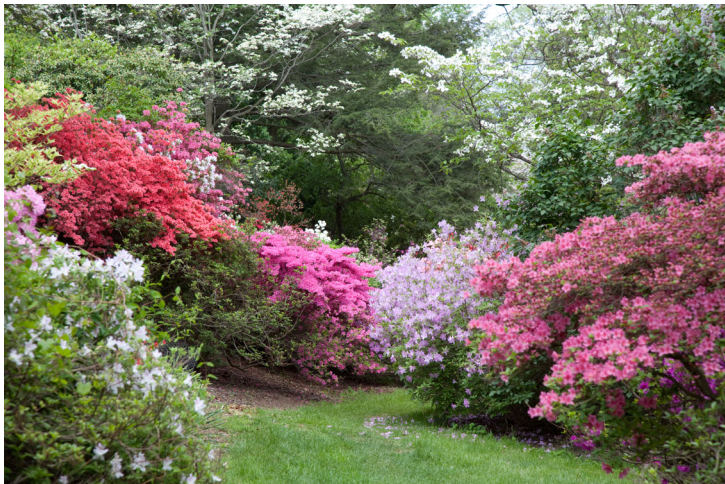


*Discovering what lives in the soil.*

"The Phoenixville Public Library finds the work of Green Valleys Association a valuable resource for the Phoenixville community and a viable educational program as we work together to educate our children," said John Kelley, Executive Director of the library.

## Mother's Day Tea & Azalea Bloom Walk

Our annual **Mother's Day celebration** will be held on the estate house terrace, overlooking the great pond in valley below, surrounded by spring blooms and birdsong. The Rodebaugh's collection of colorful azaleas, planted *en masse* along the hill west of the house will be at their peak of bloom, so be sure to bring your camera and enjoy a walk through the gardens. A light menu of savory and sweets will be served buffet style from the dining room at two seatings: 1 to 3:00 p.m. and 3 to 5:00 p.m. Music



from the 1920s Skinner pipe organ will fill the house, which will be open for tours. For more information see the Calendar insert or visit [www.welkinweir.org](http://www.welkinweir.org).

All our spring events at Welkinweir are made possible by our sponsors and donors—PECO, Centocor Ortho Biotech, West Vincent Township, First Niagara Financial Group, Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust, Pottstown Community Health Foundation, Malvern Federal Savings Bank, Kimberton Whole Foods, HeatShed Inc., South Coventry Township, The Party Center, A. J. Blosenski Trash & Recycling Service, and Victory Brewing Company.

**We will also host two tours** this spring. On **May 21** the Owen J. Roberts Friends of the Arts will conduct its annual garden tour to raise funds for art programs at the school. This year highlights gardens in the area that feature azaleas and rhododendrons.

In June, the American Public Garden Association will host its annual conference in Philadelphia, the theme being MORE—which is what our region offers in terms of public gardens. On Tuesday, **June 21**, Welkinweir, GVA's home and demonstration site, will be a part of the *Plantmen's Private Country Gardens* tour, featuring a tour of the house and gardens, with lunch served on the terrace overlooking our own watershed. To volunteer please call 610-469-7543.

## Meadow conversion at Welkinweir

Over the past few years, areas at Welkinweir that were once lawn are now meadows, rich with a mix of native grasses and wildflowers, particularly east of the Great Pond, the steep slope south of the education Barn, and to the west of the visitor's parking lot. Why all of this seemingly wild growth, you may ask? Our staff is conscientious of the environmental impacts of our maintenance practices, and reducing traditional lawn areas are a result of this effort.

There are many environmental benefits to reducing the amount of lawn on your property. One of the most significant is the reduction of storm water runoff. The meadows at Welkinweir are only mowed once or twice a year, which means that the soil in these areas is far less compacted. Combined with deeper-rooted plant materials to absorb rainwater, these meadows slow water movement and allow rain water to percolate into the ground instead of running off.

Mowing less reduces the amount of fuel, lowers fuel costs, reduces wear and tear on equipment, and lowers greenhouse



*Swamp Milkweed*

gas emissions. Minimizing mowing time allows our staff to focus on other important tasks throughout the arboretum and reduces disruption to both visitors and wildlife.

The aesthetic appeal of Welkinweir's meadows can be enjoyed by visiting in person or viewing the photo gallery on our Facebook page. Here you can appreciate the wildflowers and grasses that have sprung up in our new meadow ar-

reas, including *Vernonia noveboracensis* (New York Iron Weed), *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp Milkweed), and *Mimulus ringens* (Monkeyflower). Compared with a lawn, biodiversity is greatly increased: from the increased plant life that provides food and shelter to the increase in birds, butterflies, and other wildlife that are attracted to this habitat.

So this spring, before you go to the trouble of cutting all that lawn, consider setting aside an area for a meadow and reaping all the benefits that not mowing provides. - Austin Deputy

### Welkinweir Spring Hours

*Welkinweir's arboretum and surrounding natural lands are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends for members only.*

[www.welkinweir.org](http://www.welkinweir.org)

## Introducing our new Horticultural Fellow

Hi, I'm Beth Moosman, a 2011 graduate of the University of Idaho with a BS in Plant Science, with an emphasis in urban landscape and turf management. My interest in horticulture began in my sophomore year of high school with a botany course where we raised annuals to sell, cared for the campus, and spent a few weeks in the spring helping community members prune fruit trees. After this experience, I began pruning my family's fruit trees in the spring and found that type of work very satisfying.

My senior project research paper and presentation centered on xeriscape landscape design, and from there I decided to major in landscape architecture. After two years in that program, I returned to my first interest—horticulture. I developed an interest in public gardens working summers at the University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

I grew up in Burley, Idaho on a small dairy farm where my dad milked Holsteins and raised alfalfa and barley. My many siblings and I were my dad's only labor force and we were expected to work hard. My parents also had a large orchard with apples, apricots, cherries, peaches, pears, and plums, and a large vegetable garden where we were all involved with weeding, harvesting, and preserving the produce. Having only lived in Idaho up to this point, the east coast location of Welkinweir appeals to my desire to go explore somewhere completely new and learn about public garden management and how a non-profit organization operates. What I am most looking forward to at Welkinweir is the commitment to community involvement, educational programs, and stewardship of the earth's resources.



- Beth Moosman



Temple-Ambler students lend a hand at Welkinweir

*Eva Monheim's Public Horticulture students from Temple-Ambler, have been visiting and volunteering at public gardens in the region as part of their class.*

*At Welkinweir, they toured the gardens, learned about the master planning process, and did spring cleanup in the Barn Ruins garden.*



## Keeping tabs on amphibian migration

This is my fourth year heading up the Amphibian Friend volunteers at the St. Peters/Wells Roads amphibian crossing site in North Coventry Township. I went to GVA for help after moving into the area and realizing what an awesome thing happens on these very cold, very wet, very dark nights. It was too frustrating to stand by and watch the cars on St. Peters Road carelessly squashing the little guys. In 2007, GVA staff helped me get the volunteer organization up and running. Since I am always at my site when the conditions are right for a migration, I could not give Harriet any information or tips other than my own experiences. Harriet and I learned a lot this year, and it is great that I now have someone to consult with to help determine if the conditions are right for a crossing. What will the evening weather bring? Should we call out the volunteers? Should we wait and make *sure* there will be precipitation? Are the conditions safe? I am very happy that there is another caring group of volunteers out there trying to help these very cool amphibians!

- Kim White

Counts per year:	2008	2009	2010	2011
Spotted Salamanders:	229	469	824	541
Jefferson Salamanders:	27	6	25	11
Wood Frogs:	228	329	879	178
Spring Peepers:	22	19	72	30
American Toads:	2	11	55	3

# Please join us . . .

Join GVA or Renew Your Membership Today! \*ONLINE MEMBERSHIP now available!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_

Watershed \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer time to GVA.

*Dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Green Valleys 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.*

**Make checks payable to Green Valleys Association and mail with Membership Form to 1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465. Visa/MasterCard accepted—please call office.**

## BASIC MEMBERSHIPS Check if this is a gift membership

*Basic Membership includes quarterly newsletter, notice of events and programs, access to Welkinweir grounds, reduced rate to special programs (including summer environmental camp) and fishing with a GVA permit.*

**Supporter** ..... \$50.00

**Naturalist**..... \$100.00

**Environmentalist** ..... \$250.00

**Protector** ..... \$500.00

**Preservationist** ..... \$750.00

**Steward** ..... \$1,000.00

## SUPPORTING CONTRIBUTION

**Friend of Welkinweir** ..... \$25.00

## FISHING PERMIT —With Family Level membership or higher

**Welkinweir Fishing Permit** ..... \$5.00

*Printed on recycled paper*

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

Spring, 2011

Help Us Meet the Martin Challenge - Renew Today!



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Green Valleys Association  
1368 Prizer Road  
Pottstown, PA 19465





# Thanks to This Year's SpringFest Sponsors



## May

**Monday, May 2—8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

**Educators' Workshop: What's so Special About the Hopewell Big Woods?** (At French Creek State Park)

This 1-day workshop, based on Environment and Ecology, and Language Arts Standards, will introduce educators about the important plants, animals, places and people of the Hopewell Big Woods area.

For K-12 public, private, and home school teachers, environmental educators, and Scout leaders.

Fee: \$10 per person. Act 48 credits available. Advance registration and payment required.

Contact Dawn at 610-469-8646.

**Saturday, May 7—10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine**  
**ANNUAL SPRINGFEST**

**Plus Early Bird Walk with Tom Reeves at 8 a.m.**

Come out to Welkinweir for our annual family fun festival event featuring local food, Victory Brewing, live music, demos, walks, talks, Raptors & Reptiles, Solar PV, Tesla, PECO Smart Ideas, Native Plant Sale & Tree Planting, Catch & Release Fishing – Bring Your Own Pole and much more! FREE. See [www.greenvalleys.org](http://www.greenvalleys.org) for more information.

**Sunday, May 8**

**Mother's Day Tea & Azalea Bloom Walk**

Celebrate Mother's Day at Welkinweir—tour the historic estate house and listen to the music of the Skinner pipe organ, then enjoy light fare of savories and sweets on the tented terrace overlooking the pond and spring blooms. Stroll the azalea garden at the peak of spring bloom. Reservations required. \$20 per person; \$5 for ages 6–12; under 6 free. Call 610-469-7543 or email [victoria@greenvalleys.org](mailto:victoria@greenvalleys.org).

**Saturday, May 14— 8:00 a.m.**

**Bird Walk with Rick Wolf**

Enjoy a guided walk throughout Welkinweir in search of migrating birds and other wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have them. For ages 6-Adult; FREE; No registration required.

**Saturday, May 21**

**Bird Walk with Sue Lucas 8:00 a.m.**

Enjoy a guided walk throughout Welkinweir in search of migrating birds and other wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have them. For ages 6-Adult; FREE; No registration required.

## June

**Saturday, June 11—9:30-11:00 a.m.**

**Summer Nature Day Camp Open House** (At Education Barn)

Walk the grounds, see our facilities, and talk to the Education Director to get your questions answered and help ease any apprehensions campers may have. For ages 4-14 and families. No registration required.

## calendar



**Saturday, June 11—8:00 a.m.**

**Bird Walk with Rob Blye and Joe Hudson**

Enjoy a guided walk throughout Welkinweir in search of various species of birds and other wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have them. For ages 6-Adult; FREE; No registration required.

**Friday, June 17—7:30 p.m.**

**Twilight Garden Tour**

Details will be posted on the web

**Saturday, June 18—8:00 a.m.**

**Bird Walk with Sarah Neto**

Enjoy a guided walk throughout Welkinweir in search of various species of birds and other wildlife. Bring binoculars if you have them. For ages 6-Adult; FREE; No registration required.

## July

**Friday, July 8—7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Fireflies!**

**Thursday, July 14—8:00-9:30 p.m.**

**Nocturnal Animal Hike and Campfire**

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## “Celebrate,” from p. 1

tional programs and community projects as well as other great local nonprofits and community organizations that work in our region. In keeping with the festival atmosphere there is live music, local food, Victory Brewing Company, demos, walks, talks, raptors and reptiles, native plants for sale and a tree planting. Cool stuff from solar PV, PECO's Smart Ideas, Tesla's all-electric sports car, and electric yard care equipment. Enjoy locally grown and produced products, activities for kids including catch-and-release fishing (bring your own pole) at our pond. Close out the day by buying tickets for our garden-themed raffle, for a chance to win herbs, blueberry and strawberry plants, garden tools, organic soil, tickets to Longwood Gardens, and other special treats – all to benefit the Association's programs and services.