

# Streamlines

Spring 2018

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# Watersheds

## Green Design: Multiple Projects Completed

In Valley, French, and Pickering Creek Watersheds, GVWA has recently completed a variety of stormwater infrastructure improvements. Five basins were naturalized at Immaculata University and Penn State Great Valley. At Phoenixville Middle School, a new Rain Garden was installed—this is the second project at this campus. At Owen J Roberts West Vincent Elementary School, a mown lawn basin was converted to a pollinator meadow basin – with perennials, grasses, shrubs, and trees beneficial to pollinators as well as birds. At Weatherstone Home Owners Association, a basin located adjacent to their community garden was renovated with native perennials as well as trees and shrubs.

Treating water runoff from buildings, parking lots, and other hard surfaces with a soil-plant-air system that mimics the natural water cycle, through soil infiltration, absorption and transpiration by plant is a way to protect water quality and has been a key program for our organization. And we couldn't do this without our staff, partners, funders and volunteers. A big thank you to all the schools and the HOA board, Green Weaver Landscapes, Think Green, Princeton Hydro, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, DEP's Growing Greener program, DCNR's Schuylkill Highlands mini grant program, William Penn Foundation, the Valley Creek Trustee Council, Pauline Morton Foundation, Keep PA Beautiful and GVWA Staff.



# Delaware River Watershed Initiative Phase 2 Launched

The William Penn Foundation is providing over \$40 million in funding for Phase 2 of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI). The DRWI is a collaboration between 65 organizations engaged in the common goal of protecting and restoring the Delaware River and its tributaries. *Locally, the DRWI is working in synergy with our local, regional and state entities to enhance and expand all aspects of watershed protection and restoration.*

To learn more visit [4states1source.org](http://4states1source.org)

## Summer Kick-Off Picnic

Join us to kick-off the start of summer and Wednesday Nature Nights on June 20th from 6 till 9 p.m. at the pavilion. BYO picnic, with lemonade and ice cream on us! A nature walk is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. followed by a Birds of Prey program at 7:30 p.m. Event is free (donations are appreciated) and no registration is required. Rain or Shine, drop by anytime. For more information [gva@greenvalleys.org](mailto:gva@greenvalleys.org) or (610) 469-4900.

**Thank You Stream Clean Up Volunteers!**  
On a sunny but cool Saturday on Earth Day weekend, over twenty individual and family volunteers (including our Schuylkill Water Stewards) came out to clean up a stretch of the French Creek from the Schuylkill Center in the Foundry to the confluence with the Schuylkill River. Thanks to Barbara Cohen, Schuylkill Center, for allowing us to use their parking area.

Seen trash along a stream?  
Please email photo(s) with GPS coordinates to [gva@greenvalleys.org](mailto:gva@greenvalleys.org)



Green Valleys Watershed Association Mission is to protect, preserve, and restore the natural waterways of northern Chester County. We inspire, educate, and involve our community to make a difference for this generation and for generations to come.

Welkinweir, our headquarters, is the former home of founding members Everett & Grace Rodebaugh, showcases the organization's mission. Located in East Nantmeal Township with 219 acres of permanently preserved land featuring an arboretum, wetlands, ponds, stream, meadows, and forest habitats.

Open for visiting Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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On the cover:  
*section of the stream below the Welkinweir main dam in the newly preserved 22 acres*



# Environmental Education

## Choose Your Outdoor Adventure at Summer Nature Day Camp!



Registration is open for summer camp, and we have many exciting activities planned!

Our days will be filled with nature walks, wildlife explorations, science experiments, outdoor games, and fun art projects.

Nature Day Camp runs weekly, June 18 through August 10, with each week having its own theme, so campers can choose their favorite weeks to attend! Nature Camp is held Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for ages 4 and children entering Kindergarten; and 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for campers entering grades 1 through 7.

*Register soon to secure spots in your child's favorite camps!*

Support a Local Family in Need  
Donate to the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund

There are children from our communities who would love to attend a week of Nature Camp, but whose families are in need of financial support. If you wish to assist in giving these children an fun and educational camp experience, consider a donation to our Summer Camp Scholarship Fund.

Fees range from \$130 for a Kindergarten-aged camp, to \$375 for a 6th or 7th grade-camp. Donations in any amount are appreciated. Please visit [https://greenvalleysassociationofsoutheasternpa.formstack.com/forms/camp\\_scholarship\\_donation](https://greenvalleysassociationofsoutheasternpa.formstack.com/forms/camp_scholarship_donation) to contribute via credit card; or mail your donation to Green Valleys, attention "Scholarship Fund".



Exploring nature is part of our Little Wonders & Kinder Nature classes.



After school Nature Clubs are now provided in three school districts, engaging children with the nature in their neighborhood.





## Cavity Nesters

Participating in Cornell's NestWatch ([nestwatch.org](http://nestwatch.org)) program is easy and fun, plus you will be assisting Cornell with studying breeding populations of cavity nesting species and factors that affect their reproduction such as climate change, habitat loss, non-native species and more. Each person who participates in this project agrees to monitor bird nest boxes during the nesting season (March through August), a couple times a week. This is when the nesting season is for many of the cavity nesting species including Tree Swallows (in photos) and Eastern Bluebirds. During this time you will be recording the arrival of a pair through the babies fledging out of the nest.

Creating your NestWatch account and familiarizing yourself with the NestWatch App is the first step. If you don't already have boxes, you'll need to put some up, or possible monitor boxes at public locations. This is a great project for school children, boy scouts/girl scouts, camps. There are some specific directions on building, placing, and monitoring boxes but we can help you with that. Please contact Rebecca Schulze at [rebecca@greenvalleys.org](mailto:rebecca@greenvalleys.org) if you are interested in starting a NestWatch bird box program, we are here to help.

Welcome Rebecca Schulze, our new Event & Volunteer Coordinator and Environmental Educator.

Becca has a BS in Wildlife Biology from Keystone College, La Plume Pa. She has had multiple experiences educating children and adults about the environment, leading programs at Patuxent (Maryland) Research Refuge and working with volunteers at the John James Audubon Center in Mill Grove. Becca is very excited to be here and looks forward to her new roles!





# Welkinweir



## DRWI Land Conservation

An additional 22 acres of forested headwaters adjacent to Welkinweir in the Exceptional Value Beaver Run watershed has been permanently protected and added to the Welkinweir Sanctuary thanks to a number of partners, donors and funders. Beaver Run is designated a component of DCNR's Pennsylvania Scenic Rivers System and a Pennsylvania Wild Trout Waters (naturally reproducing) by the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

The land with its forested canopy and steep slopes borders 1200 linear feet of the tributary that exits Welkinweir's main pond as well as 300 linear feet of the main stem of the Beaver Run beyond the confluence. The parcel sustains a rich diversity of plant and animal life including neo-tropical birds as well as a species of special concern. The Horse-Shoe Trail crosses the property, permanently protecting a trail link from Welkinweir to Warwick County Park and beyond.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to those who made this possible: Kenneth and Mary Marlene Graham, landowners, who initially approached us and were very patient throughout the process; the staff of Natural Lands for organizing all aspects of the purchase, writing the grants on our behalf and ultimately finding funding from seven separate sources including: Chester County Open Space Fund; the Open Space Institute, through the William Penn Foundation; East Nantmeal Land Trust; and anonymous donor; the Mars Foundation; the Horseshoe Trail Conservancy; and of course our members who generously supported this project through our Annual Appeal. Thanks to East Nantmeal Township Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and the East Nantmeal Land Trust - without their overwhelming support, this would not have happened.

## Trail Assessment

Thanks to funding received from the Schuylkill Highlands mini grant program, Penn Trails LLC will conduct a professional trail assessment to provide critical information for us to plan and budget maintenance, repair and related projects of our existing trails, and also new sections on the recently acquired 22 acres







The health of our watersheds has been our focus for over 50 years.

Green Valleys Watershed Association is located in northern Chester County, Pennsylvania, where our scenic watersheds are comprised primarily of Exceptional Value (EV) and High Quality (HQ) waters. These streams are in the top tier in Pennsylvania. They are a precious resource.



GREEN VALLEYS  
WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION

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Pottstown, PA 19465

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

610-469-4900

*Already renewed your membership? Share with a friend!*

*Please join us!*

Your membership is an investment in clean water and healthy watersheds, for now and for future generations.

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I would prefer to pay with:  Check (payable to GVWA)

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*\*Phone & email needed to process credit card payments. We do not share your information with other charitable organizations.*

Detach this form and mail with payment to:

**Green Valleys Watershed Association**  
1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP** includes newsletter subscription, notice of special events and programs, and reduced rate to special programs, workshops, and Summer Nature Day Camp.

**Membership levels (please check one):**

- Individual.....\$45
- Family.....\$60
- Naturalist.....\$100
- Environmentalist.....\$250
- Protector.....\$500
- Preservationist.....\$750
- Steward.....\$1,000

I am a:  New Member  Renewing Member

I am interested in including GVWA in my legacy planning.

Please notify me of GVWA volunteer opportunities:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_