

Streamlines

Fall 2018

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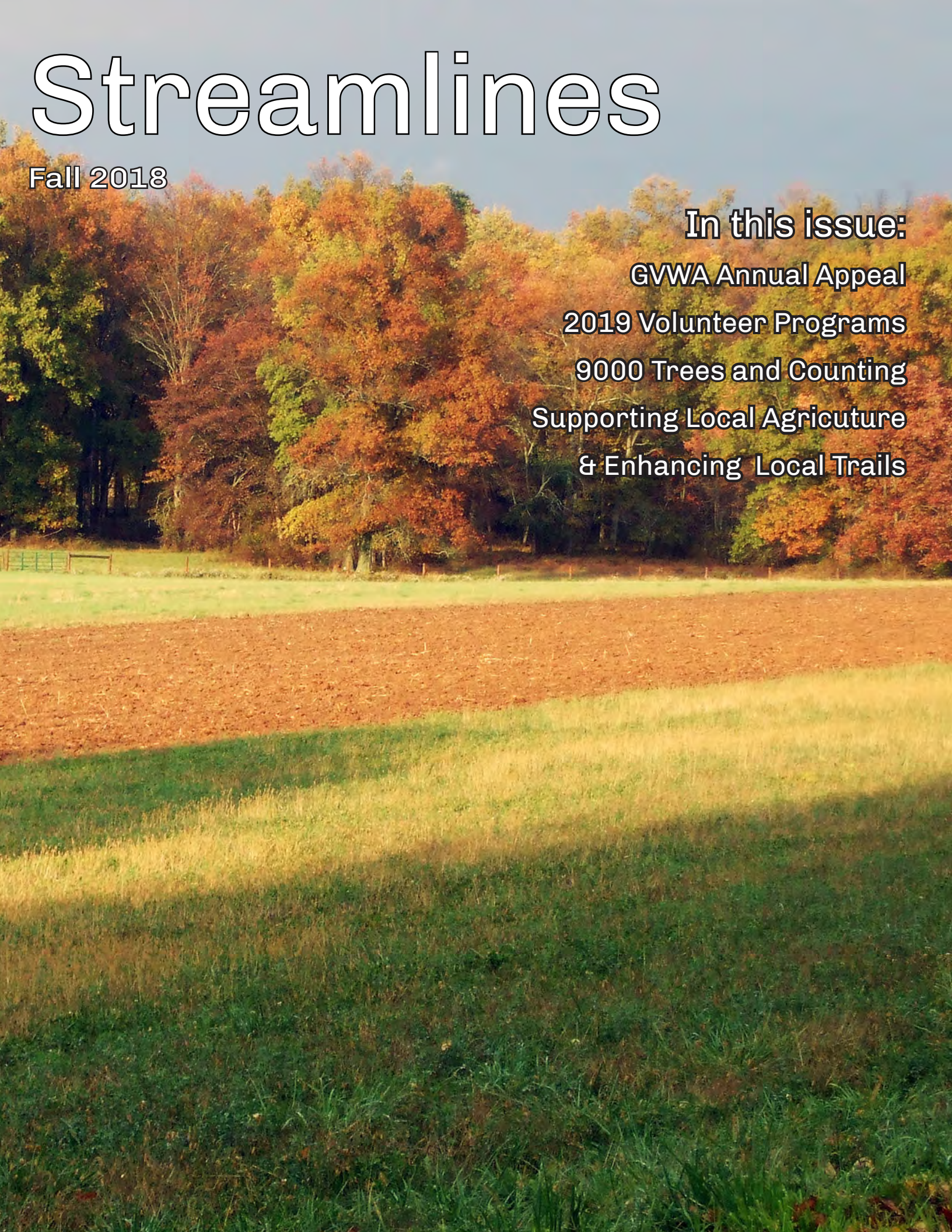
GVWA Annual Appeal

2019 Volunteer Programs

9000 Trees and Counting

Supporting Local Agriculture

& Enhancing Local Trails



Green Valleys Annual Appeal



We ask for your support for our new Environmental Education Center. Our goal is \$40,000 to fund the detailed drawings needed to go forward to the next phase of this exciting initiative!

*Holiday Open House
December 8th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*



Spring 2019 Volunteer Opportunities

Schuylkill Water Steward --Starts March 2019

Become a Schuylkill Water Steward and help support our efforts to protect our HQ & EV streams as well as play a vital role in a multi-state, science-based effort to protect and the restore the Delaware River Watershed. Learn the science of healthy watersheds, threats to our local streams, water sampling techniques and more in five fun and engaging training sessions, to be held on Saturday afternoons in March and April 2019. Following the training, you'll get to work monitoring and protecting area streams by: monitoring water quality, keeping an eye on stormwater, assessing streamside habitats, observing and recording aquatic wildlife, and continued learning through workshops. More importantly, you will have the knowledge to advocate for your own local streams! To apply, www.schuylkillwaterstewards.org or contact Vicki at 610-469-4743 or victoria@greenvalleys.org

PA Master Naturalist Training April - Starts June 2019

The application and class schedule is now available for PMN volunteer training at Welkinweir. Adults who are curious about nature, enjoy the outdoors, and want to be part of natural resource management and conservation in Pennsylvania are perfect candidates to become a certified Pennsylvania Master Naturalist. For more information contact Becca at rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900

Thank You to Our Annual Celebration Sponsors

A beautiful, summer-like evening in mid-October greeted those attending this year's Annual Celebration as supporters mingled in the gardens then enjoyed cocktails, dinner and an amazing presentation by Keith Williams, Executive Director of Northbay, who shared the magical world under the surface of our local streams through photographs taken underwater as he creek snorkels. He has inspired us to offer creek snorkeling as one of our new community nature programs for 2019! None of this would be possible without the support of our sponsors – we sincerely thank you! Bartlett Tree Experts, Carnevale Eustis Architects, French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Green Weaver Landscapes, Jeffrey A Miller Catering, Kimberton Waldorf School, Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, Pughtown Agway, Theurkauf Planning & Design, Caroline Amidon, Edward Bacon, Robert & MaryJane Blumenthal, Kell & Kate Damsgaard, John & Mary Ellen Eldridge, John Funk & Elaine FitzSimons, Don & Judi Hans, Glen Hill, Allen Heist, Carol & Sylvia Landis, Victoria Laubach & Michael Bullard, Art & Marge Miller, Christopher Orzechowski, Larry & Harriet Stone, Larry & Jo-An Rechten, and Glenn & Nancy Wenger.

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.

Our headquarters is located in the French Creek watershed in East Nantmeal Township at Welkinweir, the former home of founding members Everett & Grace Rodebaugh. It is from here that the organization fulfills its purpose of watershed protection, environmental education, and land stewardship.

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

Board of Directors

Allen Heist, President
Chris Orzechowski, VP & Secretary
Don Hans, Treasurer
Ed Bacon, Past President
Melissa Albright, Rob Blumenthal, Glen Hill, Carl Landis, Jim McQuillan, Marjorie, Miller, Jo-an Rechten

Staff

Victoria Laubach, Executive Director
victoria@greenvalleys.org
Elaine Armbrust, Bookkeeper
elaine@greenvalleys.org
Michael Bullard, Science Coordinator
mikeb@greenvalleys.org
Becca Blacketter,
Volunteer Coordinator & Educator
rebecca@greenvalleys.org
Dawn White, Education Coordinator
dwhite@greenvalleys.org

1368 Prizer Road
Pottstown, PA 19465
Phone (610) 469-4900
Fax (610) 469-4990
Email gva@greenvalleys.org
Web www.greenvalleys.org

On the cover:
*Autumn farm scene, northern
Chester County*

9,000 TREES & COUNTING

Start with a beautiful sunny day, bring together an entire kindergarten class with a group of trained, dedicated high school juniors and seniors, add 900 seedling trees, and you have a perfect recipe for a future streamside forest! Kudos to the administration of Phoenixville Area School District for working with GVWA's Margot Taylor to create this along a tributary to the Pickering Creek! .

No other land use supports clean water like forests. Sediment, nutrients, and bacteria are the main pollutants in our watershed, and the on-land sources of them are almost always non-forested land uses, especially impervious and poorly pervious surfaces found in urban areas.

Planting and maintaining woody vegetation along streams provide a wealth of benefits. Stroud Water Center's research has shown that stream health is dependent on the presence of woody vegetation along stream banks.

Since 2010 we have pursued restoring these streamside forests at numerous sites across the watersheds, and we are just getting started.

With over \$45,000 in support from both the Cora L. Brooks Foundation and Tree Vitalize we have engaged 1,700 volunteers to plant over 9,000 trees since 2010. The commitment and enthusiasm of these amazing volunteers, of all ages, who come out to plant in rain or shine, is simply inspiring. Girl Scouts, church youth groups, students at OJR & Phoenixville Districts, Cabrini College, Americorp, conservation organizations including Sierra Club, Valley Forge Trout Unlimited, corporate employees from Siemens, Janssen Biotech, Vanguard, Cerner, Environmental Advisory Council members, engaged residents and more have all given generously of their time and strength. Thank you!

Township parks, municipal-owned open space, land preserves, and farms - wherever there is a stream that needs trees we are working to get trees growing.



Riparian Buffer Installation at Phoenixville Area School District's Early Education Center May 2018

GVWA NEW FUNDING: Supporting Local Agriculture & Enhancing Local Trails

We are working with local farmers to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) at several farms. BMPs are primarily designed to prevent rainwater from carrying away soils and nutrients from farms--keeping these valuable resources for the farmer to use, and keeping it out of the streams. Truly a win win situation.

Funding of \$135,000 from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Delaware River Restoration Fund (a DRWI program) and funding of \$148,000 from PA DEP is providing:

- Planning assistance to update conservation plans and manure management plans;
- Technical assistance to survey farms and prepare engineered designs for BMPs;
- Financial and technical assistance for BMP installation including covered manure storage, rainwater controls at livestock buildings, streambank fencing, new riparian buffers, stream animal crossings, and alternative (not in the stream) watering sources for livestock.

At Welkinweir we have new funding towards a major overhaul of the existing trails network.

Funding of \$20,000 from PA DEP, and \$5,000 from the DCNR's Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative for:

- Updating trails management at Welkinweir including evaluation of current trail and corridor conditions, inventory and features contained within the trail corridor, and collecting GPS data for an accurate base map.
- Re-routing trails away from sensitive areas and improving habitat conditions along waterways

A 2-day professional trail workshop will be offered in 2019 at Welkinweir, led by the Penn Trails staff, who are conducting the current assessment. Stay tuned for more information.



NATURE PROGRAMS AT WELKINWEIR

Community Nature Programs--come to one of our upcoming programs that'll put you in touch with nature! Unless noted, all programs are for ages 6 to adult. Fees per person: GVWA Members \$7, Nonmembers \$9. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration required, by calling the staff listed by the program.

Nature after Dark

Saturday, January 25 (Severe weather date, February 1) 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Explore the nocturnal world during a night walk along the trails in search of beavers, owls, and other critters, before warming up by the campfire with stories and s'mores.

Refreshments provided.

Dawn White at dwhite@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-8646.

Spring Frog Songs

Saturday, February 16 (severe weather date February 23rd) 6:30- 8:00 p.m.

The forest comes alive with the sounds of spring. Enjoy a naturalist-led walk to look and listen for frogs and toads calling for mates. Learn about the different species and the sounds they make.

Rebecca Blacketter at rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900.

Up Close with Birds of Prey (severe weather date March 15th)

Friday, March 8 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Join us for a program on Pennsylvania birds of prey, featuring live raptors from Indian Run Environmental Education Center in Glenmoore. Examine skulls, feathers and bones to learn about the amazing adaptations that make raptors the master predators of the skies.

Dawn White at dwhite@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-8646.

Spring Bird Migration Walk

Saturday, March 23 8:30- 10:00 a.m.

Spring has sprung and the birds are returning to our forests. Enjoy a guided walk to discover which species have arrived. Bring your binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. FREE. Spaces are limited and advanced registration required by contacting Rebecca Blacketter at rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900.

Trash to Treasure

Thursday, April 18 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Join us to create art out of trash! Learn more about doing your part to protect the earth, and bring two recyclable materials to be repurposed as a bird feeder and a toad house! Children ages 6 to 12 only. Adults must accompany children. Fees as above Or FREE when you bring two recycled soda or milk cartons. Rebecca Blacketter at rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900.



LITTLE WONDERS & NATURE CAMP

Salamander Saturday

Saturday, May 4 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Discover the world of salamanders! Learn more during an informational presentation on local salamanders given by Patrick Gardner, the Chester County coordinator for the PA Amphibian and Reptile Survey. Then take a guided walk to search for salamanders in their habitats. Rebecca Blacketter at rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900.

Summer Nature Camp 2019 is coming.

Camp brochures will be mailed in January with early registration beginning in February, after all nature-based education is good for children. Learn more by attending the Summer Nature Day Camp Open House on Sunday, March 10 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Walk the grounds and talk with the Education Coordinator to discover more about our fun and educational summer day camps, offered for children age 4 through 7th grades. No registration required. Open House will take place at the Education Building, by the visitors parking area. For more information, contact Dawn White at dwhite@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-8646.



Children's Programs at Welkinweir

Little Wonders Classes Wednesdays,
10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:45-1:45 p.m.

Children and their caregivers can discover the wonders of nature during fun and educational programs. Each class includes theme-based, age-appropriate activities, including a nature discovery walk, story, and a craft. All class themes are independent of one another.

Ages 3 through 5 with caregiver. Non-participating siblings are welcome. Fees (for children only): \$10 GVWA members; \$12 nonmembers.

March 7 – Eye See You

March 14 – All Ears!

March 21 – Spring Egg-citement

April 4 – Wings and Things

April 11 – Seed Need

April 18 – Stream Stomp

April 28 – Pond Pondering

Spaces are limited. Advanced registration required by contacting Dawn White at dwhite@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-8646.



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.



1368 Prizer Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card # _____

Exp. ___/___ CID _____ Phone* _____

Email address* _____

**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

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: _____