

Streamlines

Spring 2019

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GREEN VALLEYS
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

Green Valleys Watershed Association
1368 Prizer Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

April 3, 2019

Re: Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Dear Members and Directors,

On behalf of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Green Valleys Watershed Association (the "Association"), we are pleased to provide the members (the "Members") and the directors (the "Directors") of Green Valleys Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania d/b/a Green Valleys Watershed Association (the "Association") with a brief summary of the reasons for and key provisions of the proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation (the "Restated Articles") and Bylaws (the "Restated Bylaws"), to support their consideration and approval process.

BACKGROUND

The Association retained Laura Solomon & Associates ("LS&A") in July of 2018 to review its Articles of Incorporation (the "Articles") and Bylaws. In particular, LS&A was asked to consider whether any amendments were necessary to modernize the Articles and Bylaws in keeping with the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1988, as amended (the "Act"), and make them reflect the current practices of the Association, its Board of Directors and Committees of the Board (the "Committees").

Following their review, LS&A recommended the amendment and restatement of both the Articles and Bylaws, to include the following:

1. Bring them into compliance with the Act;
2. Reflect the current practices of the Officers, the Board, and Committees;
3. Clarify the fiduciary duties of the Board and delegation of powers to Officers and Committees; and
4. Change the Association from a membership corporation to a non-membership corporation under the Act, to facilitate the healthy functioning of the Association and accurately reflect the role and level of engagement of the Members.

A memorandum regarding the proposed Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws is enclosed. A complete draft version of the proposed Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws are available at www.greenvalleys.org

VOTING

The proposed amendments to the Articles and Bylaws were approved by resolution and passed at the Board of Directors at their March 21st 2019 meeting. The Association is currently a membership corporation with Corporate Members and in keeping with its current Articles and Bylaws, the Members must approve the proposed Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws.

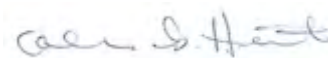
The current Bylaws require that any amendment be approved by a majority vote of a quorum (at least fifteen (15) Members) present at any annual or regular meeting following presentation of the proposed changes to the Members at least thirty (30) days in advance, by mail or at a special or regular meeting of the Members. The voting will occur at the beginning of the Board of Directors' meeting on May 16, 2019 at 5:30 PM at Welkinweir. Refreshments will be available.

Should you have any logistical questions prior to the meeting and to RSVP please call 610.469.4900 or email gva@greenvalleys.org Please hold all questions regarding the proposed Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws to the meeting.

Sincerely,



Christopher Orzechowski, MGeol, P.G., President



Allen G. Heist, Past President

Enclosed: Memorandum regarding Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws – LS&A

WELKINWEIR

Announcing America's Garden Passport

America's Garden Capital Garden Passport is the ultimate guide and way to log garden visits to the 36 gardens in the Greater Philadelphia Region. The Garden Passport is organized by geographic region and provides need-to-know information and must-visit experiences at each garden.

Treasure your garden memories by collecting stamps, stickers, code words, or staff signatures, and draw your own pictures at each of the gardens. Passports are available at Welkinweir while supplies last. An online version of the passport is always available here: <http://americasgardencapital.org/passport>



Mother's Day Open House

Celebrate spring at Welkinweir during our Mother's Day Open House, Sunday May 12th from 2 to 4 p.m. Enjoy the garden display of spring blooms and the peak bloom of our historic azalea collection. Refreshments will be offered; relax while taking in the view across the pond or listen to our recently restored 1928 Skinner pipe organ. RSVP please; fee charged. To register visit welkinweir.org/special-events.

National Public Garden Week

For 2019, the American Public Gardens Association has expanded the appreciation of the nation's public gardens from one day to a full week – May 13 – 19th. Initially launched in 2009 on the Friday before Mother's Day, this year, to mark the 10th anniversary, it is now a week-long celebration of the nation's public gardens to emphasize their importance and impacts on local communities. We invite you to learn more about Welkinweir by visiting, volunteering, or supporting one of our region's hidden gems. www.welkinweir.org.



OUTHERE Adventure Challenge

With the warm weather it is time to get outdoors and participate in the OUTHERE adventure challenge. This is a fun family challenge, for ages 3 to 18. Answer all the questions then celebrate with FREE ice cream cone from Coventry Parlor Ice Cream Shop. To participate, pick up your adventure challenge packet at Welkinweir, then visit all the locations listed and complete the questions. Take the completed packet to Coventry Parlor to claim your free ice cream cone and drop your completed card in the adventure challenge box to enter for a chance to win an additional gift from REI.

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 Officers

Chris Orzechowski, President
Marge Miller, Vice President
Glen Hill, Secretary
Don Hans, Treasurer
Allen Heist, Past President
Rob Blumenthal, Sue Hughes,
James Kerr, Carl Landis, Jo-an
Rechtin

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

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Phone (610) 469-4900
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Email gva@greenvalleys.org
Web www.greenvalleys.org

On the cover:
Azalea Lane, Welkinweir

THE RETURN OF FORESTS



GVWA is working with aerial photography captured over the past 80 years to track changes in stream channels over time in our watersheds. By tracking these changes, we can measure stream bank erosion rates and estimate how much sediment is being generated from stream banks. This is important because recent research is showing that these stream bank sediment sources may be the major source overall of sediments in our streams.

While processing the 1937 aerial imagery it became quickly evident that our local watersheds have undergone a surprising transformation. The extent of local forests has increased dramatically, expanding from isolated patches on unfarmable land to reclaim 30% and more of the watersheds. Trees, especially trees in the riparian zones along streams, are critically important to maintaining healthy watersheds, making this very good news.



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers Wanted

GVWA has volunteer opportunities every month from April to November! Come assist with many different activities including monitoring trees at restoration sites, stream cleanups, and more. Please dress for the weather, bring work gloves, water bottles, and sturdy shoes. If you are interested in any volunteer activity, please contact Rebecca Blacketter at rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900. Registration is required.

Stream Day Cleanup

Join us Saturday April 20th from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Foundry in Phoenixville to clean up trash along the French Creek. We'll provide everything needed – gloves, vests, and trash bags – we just need you, your friends and family to help make this year's cleanup a success!

We are looking for other areas along our local streams that need to be cleaned up as well as partners to organize stream cleanups. Want to plan your own cleanup? Let us assist you in getting the supplies you need, organizing a trash pick-up, and anything else you may need. Let's keep our water clean and clean up our waterways!



Schuylkill CleanSweep App

This new app, available on Google Play and in the i-Store, will let you register cleanup events, recruit volunteers or search for cleanups.

Individuals can record what has been cleaned up during their event - showing the types of garbage, hotspots for garbage, and progress being made to clean our waterways. By using CleanSweep we can show the importance for not littering and keeping our waterways healthy.



Volunteer Training Programs Underway

Pennsylvania Master Naturalist (PMN) and Schuylkill Water Stewards (SWS) volunteer training programs began this spring. These two diverse training programs will strengthen our organizations volunteer force and provide support to our staff as they carry out the organizations mission. Both training classes are offered in the spring; PMN runs April to mid-June and SWS begin in March and runs through early May. We are excited for these training programs to be underway, appreciate the participants giving their time, and look forward to working with them as they complete their training.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Choose Your Adventure at Summer Nature Camp!

Summer Nature Camp Registration is officially underway! We have many exciting activities planned, including new topics like **Dinosaurs, Nocturnal Animals, and Be a Scientist!** Our days will be filled with nature walks, wildlife explorations, science experiments, outdoor games, and fun art projects.

Summer Nature Camp runs **June 17th through August 9th**, 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 p.m. for ages 4 and children entering Kindergarten; and 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. for campers entering grades 1 through 7.

Don't miss out on some great discounts! Members of GVWA save money each week! Members with a minimum Family Membership rate of \$60, receive a discounted fee for each camp. Early Bird Registrants receive a 10% camp discount when registering by April 26th and paying in full.



For more details on each camp theme, special programming, fees and registration, visit <https://www.greenvalleys.org/summer-nature-day-camp>.

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

There are children from Pottstown and surrounding communities waiting for scholarships in order to attend camp. Can you help give them a week of outdoor education and fun?



COMMUNITY NATURE PROGRAMS

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! Ages 6 to 12 only. Adults must accompany children. FREE if you bring two recycled soda bottles or milk cartons.



Salamander Saturday!

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

Discover the world of Salamanders! Join us for an informational presentation on local salamanders given by Patrick Gardner, the Chester County coordinator for the PA Amphibian & Reptile Survey (as well as a staff member for Natural Lands) followed by a walk to look for salamander habitat (and any other herps we can find). Ages 6 to adult.



Night Sky Watch With Chester County Astronomical Society

Saturday, May 25; 8:30-10:00 p.m.

Join members of the Chester County Astronomical Society for an informational talk on the spring sky and observation techniques. Then head outside to observe the night sky through telescopes. Guests are welcome to bring their own scopes! For ages 8 to Adult only. Registration contact: dwhite@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-8646.

davehuth.com

Creek Snorkeling Adventure

Saturday, June 29; 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Join Keith Williams, Executive Director of Northbay Adventures to experience the abundance, diversity, and beauty under the surface of our local streams under the safe and watchful eye of an experienced snorkel guide. Ages 10 to Adult; \$30 per adult; \$15 for 10 to 16 year olds; fee includes all equipment.



Advanced registration required; spaces are limited
Fees per person: GVWA Members \$7, Nonmembers \$9 - unless otherwise stated
Registration contact: rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900.

**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.**

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: _____