

# Cooks Current

*"To protect, preserve and improve the quality of water, land and life in the Cooks Creek Watershed"*

Volume 9, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Cooks Creek Watershed

Spring 2012

## 2012 Events

### Regular Board Meetings:

#### Springtown Fire House- 7:30PM

May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug. 23,  
Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

All are welcome! We appreciate  
your involvement!

### Special Events:

#### Special Events

June 16-Mini-MonsterMayhem  
July 14-Invasive Plant workshop  
Oct. 6- Fall dinner  
Nov. 10-Fall Clean Up



See back for details!

**We're on the web!**  
[www.cooks creekpa.org](http://www.cooks creekpa.org)

**Cooks Current is a publica-  
tion of the Cooks Creek  
Watershed Association.**

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## From Across the Board...

Things are heating up in more ways than one! By the time you read this, we'll have had a successful Cleanup Day, for the 9<sup>th</sup> year in a row. It is always so nice to swing into spring with our roadways in bloom and free of trash. Thanks for your help. We will also have had our annual meeting, which is usually not a big membership draw, but you all can get caught up on the events of the previous year in the next newsletter which will have our annual reports (activity and financial). Speaking of financial, please take a couple of minutes and update your membership if you haven't already. We do count on your support to do the newsletter and buy supplies for our activities. Please mail in the form on the back of this newsletter with your check.

Up and coming will be the Mini-Monster Mayhem on Father's Day Saturday – June 16. If you haven't yet attended, try to do so, it's just a morning, but oh so much fun. Raising the awareness of young people to the importance of water resources is our most important mission, not to mention getting them outside to learn in the fresh air and sunshine (hopefully). In the future, we hope to have a workshop/laboratory to use for our Mini Monsters if we are successful in finding a



**Skunk cabbage and fiddleheads are a sure sign of spring!**

*(Photo by Lois Oleksa)*

home. Pat Raynock is working hard to locate a suitable space. We are currently negotiating with Durham Township for the use of the Mill. Keep your fingers crossed!

On a more serious note, I would like to extend my condolences to the Hershey family of Springtown. John was tragically killed in early April in an accident while working around his home. John was an integral part of the Springtown Water Authority for decades and worked hard

every day to make sure that Springtown residents had clean, plentiful water. Our sympathies go out to his widow, Lee, and to his children. He will surely be missed. If you are a resident of Springfield and have an interest in volunteering on the Water Authority (there are lots of jobs for lots of different abilities), please contact Rich Schilling at the Springfield Township offices.

Yours in conservation,  
W. Scott Douglas

## Creature Feature: Swallows and Spring

Number 21 in a series on the fauna of the Watershed

By: Pat Raynock

As I walk out to the barn to feed the animals on these early spring mornings, I look for signs that the Barn Swallows have returned to *Flower Field Farm*. I wait and wonder how many birds will make it back to the farm this year, hoping that their migration north hasn't proved too treacherous.

While many farmers consider these birds as pests because they nest in the rafters of their barns and drop "guano" onto stored equipment, I happen to think they are one of the most interesting of the birds we see at the farm. Every spring, the birds migrate back here from their wintering quarters in South America. Although this little bird can migrate from as far south as Patagonia, hundreds of thousands can be seen wintering in the marshes and grain fields of northern Argentina. Imagine the instinctual drive and tenacity it must take to make this trek back and forth; and to wind up year after year in our barns and outbuildings, ready to breed and continue the cycle of life. One morning, I will hear their *chee-chee* call and chat-



© Marie Read

ty squeaks and I will look up into the barn rafters to see that the first of "my" birds has returned. Within a day or so of the early arrivals, the entire community will have returned, usually consisting of about 30 breeding pairs. Over the next few weeks, they will court and build their

mud nests in all of the outbuildings and get busy with the task of hatching and raising their chicks.

The Barn Swallow is abundant and distributed around the world and it is found just about everywhere in North America below the Arctic timber-

line. Although it was a cave dweller in earlier times, it quickly adapted to nest building under eaves, bridges, and in open buildings. On warm summer evenings we thoroughly enjoy watching the aerial acrobatics of these elegant birds as they dive and soar for mosquitos in the evening sky. They are also a hoot to watch as I mow the fields; they circle the tractor and pluck insects that are thrown up into the air. They fly back and forth to their nests to feed the hatchlings with the treats the mowing provides - flies, beetles, wasps, and all sorts of "insectia". And, although the birds do create some litter in the barns, we have no pesky summer flies in our barns because the birds clear them out to feed the voracious appetites of their chicks.

And, as for those nests, our Cooks Creek moistened clay soils are ideal for strong and sturdy nests. The birds will "swoop and scoop" some water and then make a dive to earth to add a pinch of soil, mix the two elements while in flight back to the nest, and sure as any potter, place the amalgam into just the right spot as they construct their nests. There are three common species of swallows in North America and although they may look similar in appearance, their nesting habits are quite different. Barn swallows have a "half-cup" dry mud nest with the parents taking turns coming and going from the top of the nest, whereas Cliff Swallows will build a nest with a side entrance, and Tree Swallows rear their young in hollows of trees. Barn swallows can rear two clutches of 3-5 chicks in a single season.

By mid-summer, the first clutch of chicks is strong and fat, ready to take wing. What could possibly be cuter than looking up into the timbers to see five sets of little chick eyes staring back at you as they get ready to make their first flight!

(Pictures from: [http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/tree\\_swallow/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/tree_swallow/id) (check-out this site for bird identification))



## Green Tip # 18: A Natural Weed Killer

To get rid of sprouted weeds in your driveway, try using white vinegar. It's cheap! Grocery bought vinegar is 5% acetic acid. It can be used to kill weeds but may not be strong enough to work every time. It can be boiled down to make it stronger. There are stronger agricultural vinegars available, but if used incorrectly, they may damage the soil.

Mix up the following ingredients or find a recipe on the web: 1 gallon white or apple cider vinegar, 4 tablespoons liquid soap, and ½ cup rubbing alcohol. Place solution in a sprayer and apply to weeds until the leaves are wet. Watch, because it can kill grass. Weeds that are tough may need repeated applications. This solution works great on walkways and brick patios. It is best to apply when temperatures are warm and in full sun.

## Watch out for TICKS this spring!

We've had a mild winter but the real reason that the ticks will be bad is because of a situation back in 2010. That year the oak trees produced a record acorn boom resulting in a record white-footed mouse population. The white-footed mice are carriers of Lyme disease and make a perfect host for the larval stage of the black-legged ticks (often called deer ticks in the northeastern United States). Then the 2011 acorn crop was the lowest in history. With the historic number of mice and the historic small source of food, the mouse population is predicted to be very low. And with a low population of mice, the ticks are without a host looking for another host, which is you and me.



*Japanese Barberry*

*Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Connecticut,*

Folks at the Connecticut Agricultural Extension (remember Lyme, Conn. where the Lyme disease was discovered?) have discovered a high link between black-legged ticks and the ornamental shrub Japanese barberry. The barberry creates a wet, moist habitat that the ticks love.

Take a look in your woods and notice the escaped barberry. They're invasive and provide habitat for the ticks; another reason to remove this invasive!

## Springfield Township Settles with PPL on Tohickon Powerlines

By: W. Scott Douglas-(Map of location on page 13)

Proving yet again that big business can buy justice, Springfield Township settled with PPL Corporation to end the lawsuit over the construction of power lines over the Tohickon Creek. As you probably know, Springfield Township has been fighting PPL in the courts for years now to stop the construction of power lines through the last remaining intact forest in Bucks County. While not in the Cooks Creek Watershed, many CCWA members have been actively supporting the Springfield effort. A couple years ago, PPL received permission from the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission (PUC) to run a high voltage power line from Quakertown to Coopersburg up the middle branch of the upper Tohickon Creek (the portion that runs through the picturesque village of California in Richland). The construction will strip the trees from the riparian areas of the creek, with multiple crossings on the approximately 10 mile route. Erosion of the streambanks will be the result of this desecration, as well as loss of wetlands and other sensitive habitats. And, as we know from many examples in our area, when vegetation does return to power line rights of way it is mostly invasive species. The power companies "control" the invasive species with a scorched earth policy of brush hogging and pesticide application that strips away all vegetation and starts the erosion process over again.

Springfield Township had appealed the PUC decision last year in Commonwealth Court, but lost on what appeared to CCWA observers as a party-line vote. Dissenting judges strongly believed that the PUC had failed in their constitutional mandate to require PPL to pick a route with the fewest environmental impacts; instead allowing PPL to choose a route with the least costs. At last word, Springfield was planning to take the case to the PA Supreme Court. But

according to various published and unpublished sources, Springfield Township officials met with representatives of PPL last month, where they were informed that PPL had no intention of stopping the project and if they lost in court they would simply go back to the PUC and start the process over. Having already spent close to \$250,000 on legal fees, Springfield Township officials were backed up against the proverbial wall – the costs would simply be too high. PPL quickly wrote out a check for some \$325,000+ to cover the Township's costs, and got back to their destruction.

I'm not sure who to be more angry with, PPL for callously ignoring the will of the people in Springfield (not to mention our precious water resources), or the PUC for failing in their job to uphold the Constitution and protect the interests of common people. It is my understanding that the original purpose of the PUC was to ensure that power companies did not run rampant over communities in their rush to bring their shareholders profits. While some might believe that so-called "public utilities" have to be given protection in order to be able to bring us power, remember that it has been a long time since these utilities were actually public. Most of them, especially ones like PPL, are multinational power brokers. There is no requirement for utilities to even be owned by Americans, let alone local Pennsylvanians. Apparently, the PUC is more interested in supporting their interests than in protecting ours. On a positive note, PPL representatives did admit that the lawsuit brought by Springfield was the greatest effort ever made against one of their projects. Cudos to the Springfield Supervisors and their counsel for their tenacity, creativity, and courage in this battle. Hopefully, PPL will think more than twice before trying to do anything similar in our Watershed.



## *News from the WIP Program at Palms...*

### *WIP Students Are Disney Planet Challenge Winners for PA!*



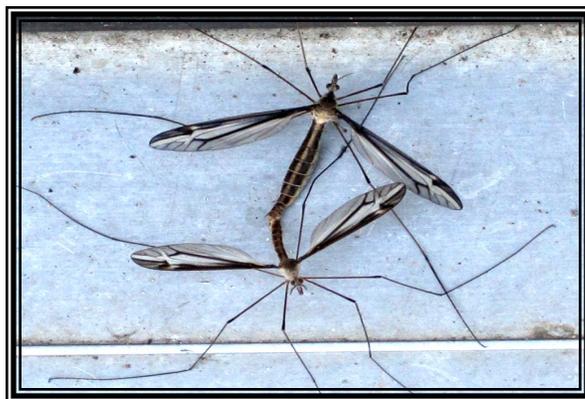
The WIP (Watershed Integration Program) students of Palisades Middle School are working hard on spreading the message of conservation to communities. Students of this year's class selected their service project to not only reflect upon the Palisades Community but also the Allentown community as well. Over the years, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have created a partnership with the students and staff of Union terrace Elementary School through means of a pen pal program; now this partnership will extend beyond the language arts to the sciences.

The students have selected their service project (better know as their "footprint project") to be the creation of an outdoor classroom alongside Union Terrace Elementary School. The outdoor classroom entails a seating area for student instruction, bluebird and bat boxes, and letter boxes holding invaluable information available for both the students of UT and the community in general.

These efforts were profiled and submitted in the Disney Planet Challenge this fall and we are proud to announce that the WIP students have been awarded the PA state winners for their conservational efforts! The prize allotment of \$1,000 will be forwarded to enhancing the materials and supplies for the outdoor classroom.

### **Spring has Sprung!**

Craneflies doing their "Spring Thing"



# Children's Backyard: A Squirrel Drey

By: Lois Oleksa article/ photos

1

## WHAT IS A DREY?

A squirrel's nest is called a drey. It's the squirrel's house.

## WHAT'S THE BEST TIME TO SPOT A DREY?

Right now, before the trees fully leaf out this spring.

## WHERE CAN I FIND A DREY?

Look up. Look for an untidy structure, made of twigs, built high up in a tree. Dreys are common in the woods. Forests having oaks, beech, elms, and red maples are especially popular with squirrels for their leaf nests.

## HOW BIG IS A DREY?

It may measure up to two feet wide and a foot high. Usually it's about the size of a large football.

## WHERE DO SQUIRRELS MAKE DREYS?

The perfect location in a tree is either near the tree trunk, in a crotch where several branches come off the limb or on a strong limb between the branches. Most dreys are at least 20 feet high so they will be protected from predators, but not too high or the nest can get blown apart by wind. If grapevines are in the tree, they can give the drey added support.

## HOW IS A DREY MADE?

A platform of twigs is woven together. Damp leaves and moss is added to form a solid base. This outside shell is finished and then the inside cavity is made. The interior is lined with fur, feathers, shredded bark, grass, and leaves. Soft materials are for the babies. There are normally one or two entrance/exit holes in a drey. The holes are on the bottom of a drey so rain stays out.

## WHAT GOES ON INSIDE A DREY?

Since tree squirrels do not hibernate, the year is full of activities. In winter, males and females share their dreys since they need to conserve body heat. Other seasons of the year they live alone. In the spring, the females are busy nursing and raising their young inside the drey. The first batch of youngsters leaves the drey around six weeks of age. In August, mother squirrel will have another litter.

Other creatures such as insects also live inside a drey. There are spiders, mites, ticks, centipedes, and especially fleas.

## WHEN ARE DREYS CONSTRUCTED?

In June and July, the first litter of youngsters practice building nests. Adult squirrels build several temporary nests in summer. These second and third homes are located at varying distances from the main nest. These nests provide protection from predators when squirrels are out feeding. These homes are sometimes only platforms without roofs. Fall is the most active time for nest construction; squirrels are getting ready for winter.

## DO SQUIRRELS LIVE IN OTHER HOMES?

Yes, tree squirrels also live in tree cavities called dens. Dens give better protection from wind, rain, and snow. When there is a shortage of natural cavities, squirrels will build and live in dreys.

## HOW LONG DO DREYS LAST?

Rain, wind, and snow are hard on a drey. Dreys need constant upkeep to keep out the elements and predators. Some dreys have been in use for over ten years, but the average drey lasts only one to two years.

TRY MAKING A SQUIRREL DREY.

*(continued on page seven)*



(continued from page six)

## TRY MAKING A SQUIRREL DREY.

- (1) Squirrel's drey seen in the woods before the leaves are on the trees.
- (2) Check out your twig pile, compost heap, and your fence row for twigs, bark, grass, and moss.
- (3) Locate an upward forked tree; or, securely anchor a forked branch in the ground to make your drey.
- (4) Place the twigs and leaves in the fork of the tree.
- (5) Continue adding, you're almost done.
- (6) A finished drey. So, was it easy - imagine yourself as a squirrel and having to haul the twigs up the tree!

2



3



4



5



6





# Litter and its Implications

Debra Orben April 14, 2012



*On the dusty sides of the roads the  
discards of our days mingle  
with the grass and weeds on the edges  
Picking up the litter is an act of faith  
or a journey into archeology  
a history lesson filled with questions  
and possibilities*

*The empty cartons of Newport cigarettes  
are light and insignificant, they repeatedly  
appear and I imagine the lungs of  
the person who left them behind  
A being of uncertain sex whose life is filled  
with smoky days and perhaps long  
and tedious drives between work and the country  
Stale smoke fills my lungs as I toss  
another empty carton into my bag.  
The variety of beverages is a delight  
to my imagination and apparently  
despite all the warnings to the  
contrary We Do drink and drive  
...preferably light beers, Miller and Busch  
and Heineken, in glass and aluminum,  
a toast to your health friend, and out  
the window it goes, a legion of  
tipsy teens or a routine tosser,  
I cannot discern the difference, but I  
just discovered a goldmine and  
an empty case of beer.  
I think it might be easy to forget about*

*(Continued on page nine)*

*(Continued from page eight)*

*responsibilities and civic pride when  
you are slightly intoxicated but energy  
drinks called Monster, and Red Bull,  
and Arizona also decorate our byways,  
like odd and out of place flowers,  
Vitamin drinks are not as reliable  
as the dandelions but they do come  
in an assortment of sizes, shapes, and colors.*

*I feel healthier already as  
I inhale all the remains of protein drinks  
with powerful nutrients, my trash bag  
sags a bit in the middle  
but I can still handle it.*

*Some treasures still remain,  
a pair of false teeth,  
an empty bottle of raspberry brandy,  
six golf balls, and a brand new  
DeWALT XP, Extended Performance,  
.045inch, high speed cut off wheel.  
whatever that is?? but my husband  
thought it was exciting.*

*It is getting hotter and this bag is a  
little overwhelmed,  
We've done our good deed for the day,  
maybe next year there will be a little less trash  
and more open space.*

*P.S. A not so subtle warning to us all,  
Beware  
of what you drop...  
your historical evidence doesn't always disappear  
and may come back to haunt you.*

## The Golden Ratio

By: Stephen Smith

It is said that the Pythagoreans were awed by the discovery of the existence of irrational numbers, the most famous of which is Pi. In Pi, the apparent complete randomness of the infinite sequence has been a challenge to those who would seek, at some place in the sequence, a pattern or repetition of numbers. Despite computation to billions of decimal places, by a whole host of Pi enthusiasts, to date none has been found.

But to many, another somewhat less familiar irrational number exists, perhaps even more intriguing than Pi. It is Phi, 1.6180..... It is, remarkably enough, the sum of the square root of one taken to infinity. It is the ratio of the distal phalanx of a finger to the middle phalanx, of the middle phalanx to the proximal phalanx, of the finger to the hand, of the hand to the forearm. It is the ratio of the height to the width of the human face.

If the number of right hand spiral florets of a sunflower is divided into the number of left hand spirals (or the other way around) the number will be approximately 1.6180.... If the distance from the ground to the first branch of a plant or tree is divided by the distance from the first to second branch the result usually approximates 1.6180... If the number of foxes in a tenth generation is divided by the number of foxes in the ninth generation, the number will approximate 1.6180....

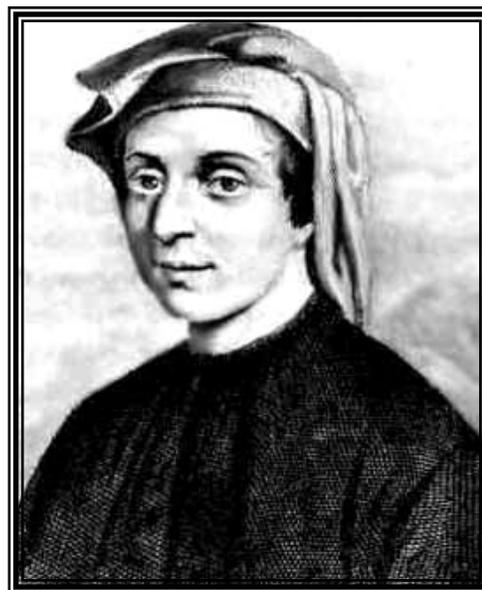
O.K. Yes! It does relate to the Fibonacci sequence and the farther one goes out in the sequence, when the preceding term is divided into the subsequent term in the sequence, the closer does it approximate 1.6180....

Another remarkable feature of the Fibonacci numbers; the sum of ten successive numbers is always evenly divisible by 11!

It is thought that the Golden Ratio was first discovered by Egyptian "rope" surveyors in ancient times as they were marking boundaries of fields following the annual flooding of the Nile. A rope can be knotted in one and only one place such that the smaller segment is to the larger as the larger is to the whole. The Greek world eventually came to appreciate the number and it was

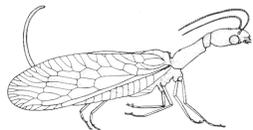
used as a template for the sublime sculpture and art of a single generation we know as the "Golden Age" of Greece. It is in fact the ratio of the height to the width of the Parthenon and is thought to be largely responsible for the aesthetic qualities of this Athenian temple. Oddly, this secret was then lost until rediscovered by Leonardo of Pisa, nicknamed Fibonacci, at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

A Golden Ratio rectangle can be constructed such that the length of the longer side divided by the length of the shorter side is 1.6180.... If a line is then drawn such that a square is cut off from the rectangle, the smaller rectangle now adjacent to the square has exactly the same proportions. If the process is then repeated continuously, by cutting off a square in each of the smaller rectangles this produces a construct known as the "whirling squares". If a spiral is constructed touching the diagonal corners of all the squares, as they progressively diminish in size, a logarithmic spiral is produced. The logarithmic spiral is seen in nature with the decay of certain sub-atomic particles seen in a cloud chamber or in the geometry of a spiral galaxy. It also is the beautiful geometry of the chambered nautilus shell, seen in cross section. Remarkably it is also the spiral path of a peregrine falcon as it dives in its attack on prey.



*Fibonacci*

([www.maths.surrey.ac.uk](http://www.maths.surrey.ac.uk))



# Mini Monster Mayhem

*Join us as we celebrate water, watersheds, and the amazing creatures which crawl in, on and under Cooks Creek. Our own Scott Douglas presents a fun-filled, kid-friendly program featuring dinosaurs, comets, a mountain of mud, gummy worms, a toilet...and monsters! Come and spend the morning romping with us in the pristine waters of the Creek. Fun for kids of all ages.*

9:30am – 12:00 noon Saturday June 16, raindate  
Sunday. At the Douglas', 3450 Rt. 212, Springtown

*This event is free and open to the public*

*Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event.*

**Bring your water shoes (or other suitable footwear),**

**We will be walking in the Creek!**

***RSVP by June 13, (610) 346-1604***

## ***Anyone following the story of the EMERALD ASH BORER?***



This insect that has been found in 15 states, including Pennsylvania, and has now been found in Warrington, Bucks County. Emerald Ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a threat to all ash (*Fraxinus*) species in Pennsylvania. EAB has killed millions of native ash trees. Our area has so many ash trees, that someone has guessed that 5% of the trees in our area are ash; that is one in twenty.



Check out the Penn State Extension's Emerald Ash Borer website. It includes recommendations for protecting and treating trees infected with the insect. Learn to recognize ash. Determine if the ash is important to preserve. Treatment provides only temporary protection, not immunity or a cure.

***Damage of the Borer (above) Emerald Ash Borer (above right)***

Photos from: [p://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry)

## Back to the Past

By: Lois and David Oleksa

**A column highlighting items of interest concerning the historical features of the Watershed.**

Reviewing *The History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*, I ran across a description of Durham, written by the notable ornithologist, naturalist and illustrator, Alexander Wilson. Wilson was born in 1766 and died in 1813, and during his relatively short life participated in many interesting endeavors concerning the study of birds. He is regarded as the greatest American ornithologist prior to Audubon. In 1801, he accepted a teaching position in what is now South Philadelphia (then called Gray's Ferry) and met the famous naturalist William Bartram, who developed Wilson's interest in the study of birds. In 1802, Wilson decided to publish a book illustrating all the North American birds; and began to travel widely, watching and painting birds and trying to get support for the publishing of his book. It was during the early part of his travels that he wandered through the Durham Valley on his way to Niagara from Philadelphia.

The following passage is taken from *The History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*.

*THE HISTORY OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, 1743*

*from the discovery of the Delaware to the present time by W. W. H. Davis, A.M.,  
1876 and 1905\* editions. End of Chapter XLI, or Chapter XI of 1905 edition.*

*The surface of Durham is rolling, in some places the  
swells rising into the dignity of hills - but nevertheless it is fertile,  
and good crops repay the labor of the farmer. In the valley of Durham  
there are many fine farms, and the sloping hillsides are cultivated to  
their summit. (35)*

*(35) Mr. Alexander Wilson, the American ornithologist, in his pedestrian  
tour to Niagara, 1804, alluded in "The Foresters," to the valley of the  
Durham creek in the following terms:*

*"Light beat hearts with changing prospect gay,  
As down through Durham's vale we held our way,  
And pause, its furnace curious to explore,  
Where flames and bellows lately wont to roar,  
Now waste and roofless, as the walls we pass  
The massive shells lie rusting in the grass.  
There let them rust, fell messengers of death!  
Till injured Liberty be roused to wrath,  
In whose right may they, though hosts oppose,  
Be blasting thunderbolts to all her foes."*

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(Continued from page twelve)

*Contributed for use in the USGenWeb Archives by Donna Bluemink.*

*dbluemink@cox.net*

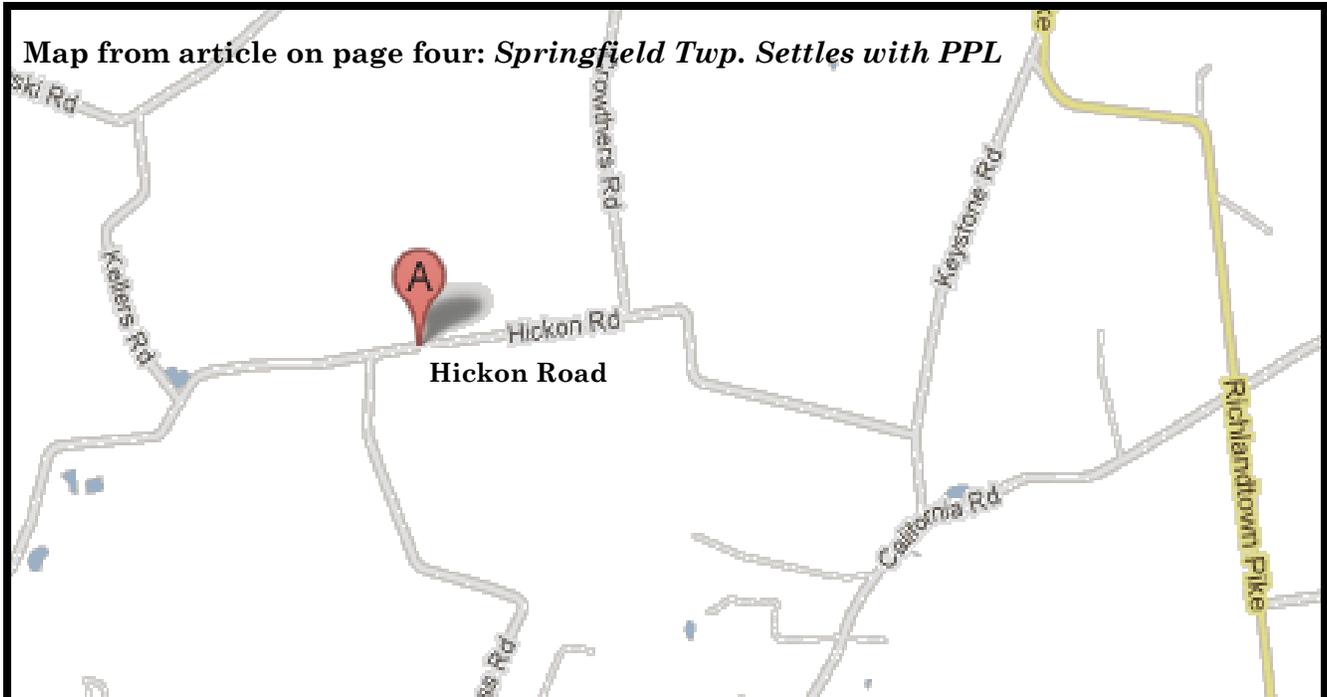
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*Transcriber's note: Liberty has been taken with numbering footnotes so as to include all footnotes from both the 1876 and 1905 editions, plus any additional text and pictures in the 1905 edition. All 1905 material will be noted with an asterisk.*

*Note: Where names differ, the 1905 edition spelling is applied.*

**Map from article on page four: *Springfield Twp. Settles with PPL***



## NEWS RELEASE

## LARGE BLOOMS OF DIDYMO, AKA “ROCK SNOT,” DISCOVERED IN THE DELAWARE RIVER

*Anglers are encouraged to vigilantly clean equipment to prevent the spread of this invader.*

WEST TRENTON, N.J. (April 24) – The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) today announced that a staff scientist last week found extensive mats of the aquatic alga *Didymosphenia geminata* (also known as Didymo or “Rock Snot”), an invasive species, in the Delaware River.

Dr. Erik Silldorff, an aquatic biologist with the commission, on April 18, 2012, discovered large Didymo blooms in the Delaware River over a 40-mile stretch extending from the area near the confluence with the Lackawaxen River (river mile 279) downstream to the vicinity of Dingmans Ferry Bridge (river mile 239). This section of river includes portions of two National Park units: the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

“We knew Didymo occurred in the river,” Dr. Silldorff said, “but the spatial extent and intensity of this bloom is alarming given its potentially detrimental effect on ecosystems and the ease in which it can be spread to nearby tributaries.”

Didymo covers rock surfaces in cold, moderate to fast flowing water. Since 2007, Didymo has been found at low concentrations during the summer months from around Hancock, N.Y., downstream to the area around Dingmans Ferry, Pa., with high-density patches frequently observed in the cold-water zones of the East and West branches of the Delaware River, as well as in the colder zones of the upper main stem river.

Following the recent discovery, scientists with the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection over this past week independently documented Didymo blooms extending north of the area discovered by Silldorff to Callicoon, N.Y. (river mile 303) as well as from Long Eddy, N.Y. (river mile 315) upstream into the East and West branches of the Delaware River (upstream of river mile 330). Each biologist noted that the intensity was variable, with some areas having dense coverage, while other sites or locations only having relatively small patches. Regardless, these findings indicate that the blooms of Didymo now extend across more than 100 miles of river.

While Didymo is not a public health hazard, there is great ecological concern with discovering the invasive alga to this extent and in these concentrations. Thick mats of Didymo can crowd out or smother more biologically valuable algae growing on the riverbed, thereby significantly altering the physical and biological conditions within a stream.

*(Continued to page fifteen)*

(Continued from page fourteen)

Additionally, Didymo can easily attach to any fishing equipment, especially felt-soled boots, and the chance of it hitchhiking its way into nearby streams or rivers that currently lack this unwanted invader is cause for alarm. The risk is compounded by the bloom's timing with the beginning of trout season, when anglers flock to the river in large numbers. This spring's warm weather and low flows are bringing out even more fishing enthusiasts, further amplifying the concern for spread.

DRBC staff is coordinating with scientists from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and the National Park Service to quickly alert the public and identify appropriate next steps. Samples already collected were sent to the laboratory at The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia where Academy scientists confirmed the identification of Didymo. Follow-up surveys to determine the actual downstream extent of the bloom are planned once river conditions improve after the weekend's rains.

For more details, including additional information on Didymo and how to prevent its spread by properly cleaning equipment before entering another stream or river, please visit [www.drbc.net](http://www.drbc.net).

The DRBC is a federal/interstate government agency responsible for managing the water resources within the 13,539 square-mile Delaware River Basin. The five commission members are the governors of the basin states (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) and the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division, who represents the federal government.

*Editor's Note: The DRBC uses a stream location and identification system based on river mileage. River mile zero is located at the mouth of the Delaware Bay (i.e., where the bay meets the Atlantic Ocean) at the intersection of a line between the Cape May Light (N.J.) and the tip of Cape Henlopen (Del.). As one moves upstream, river mile 330 is the "head" (or beginning) of the main stem Delaware River, where the East Branch of the Delaware meets the West Branch near the town of Hancock, N.Y. Details can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/drbc/basin/river/>.*

**DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**  
P.O. Box 7360, 25 State Police Drive  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Kate O'Hara, (609) 883-9500 x205

Erik Silldorff (Aquatic Biologist), (609) 883-9500 x234

***Didymo (Rock Snot)***

***Photo by Tim Daley, PA DEP***

<http://www.fish.state.pa.us/waters>



# Recycle!

## Local Recycling Information

### Durham Township Recycling Center

Location: Municipal Building, 218 Old Furnace Rd, Durham

1st Saturday of every month ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday if 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday is on a holiday weekend)

Hours: 9:00AM – 12:00 noon

Accepting newspapers, magazines, junk mail, phone books, glass, tin, plastic, aluminum and cardboard.

Please note that this facility is available to all, not just Durham Township residents!

Contact Joe Kulick at the township building for more info. 610-346-8911

### Springfield Township

Location: Township Building, 2320 Township Road

Paper Recycling Bin Available at Township Building.

A Recycling bin was recently placed here and is available to anyone. Cut down on trash and help the township earn extra money. You can drop off: Magazines, Shopping Catalogs, Phone Books, Newspapers, Office and School Papers, Mail.

Please do NOT include: Plastic, glass, metal, trash

Hours: Anytime ; See website: [www.springfieldbucks.org](http://www.springfieldbucks.org) or call (610) 346-6700.

### Blinderman & Son

Location: 1320 Whitaker St, Hellertown. 610-838-9221

Hours:  
7:30AM – 4:00 PM, Monday – Friday

7:30 AM – 11:30AM, Saturday

Accepting cardboard and most metals

### City of Bethlehem Theis/Cornfeld Recycling Center

Web site: [www.bethlehem-pa.gov/recycle/services/theis\\_cornfeld.htm](http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/recycle/services/theis_cornfeld.htm)

Location: 635 Illick's Mill Rd, Bethlehem

Phone: 610-865-7082 Hours: Weekdays: 10 AM to 4 PM,  
Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM, Sunday 11AM to 3 PM

Accepting glass, cans, plastics, newspapers, all books, magazines, catalogs, cardboard, mixed office paper, met-

als, textiles (clothing, shoes, etc.), large appliances (certified freon-free). Call or go to the web site for specifics.

**Bonus!!** They provide FREE on site shredding services for businesses and private individuals. If you have 4 or more boxes, call 610-865-7082 to schedule an appointment.

### City of Bethlehem Compost Center

Location: 1480 Schoenersville Rd., Bethlehem

Non-Bethlehem residents are not allowed to drop off materials at the composting center but the mulch and compost is available for free to anyone if loading services are not needed. They actually produce much more than what they can distribute, so they encourage anyone to take as much as they would like! Loading services are provided for a fee of \$10/cubic yard in the spring and fall. Call 610-856-7082 for hours.



# Schedules of Local Government Meetings

**Springfield Township:**  
[www.springfieldbucks.org](http://www.springfieldbucks.org)  
 610-346-6700  
 2320 Township Road

**Supervisors:** 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM  
**Planning Commission:** 1st Wed. @ 7 PM  
**Supervisors/Planning Commission**  
 Work Session: 3rd Thurs. @ 7 PM  
**Environmental Advisory Council:**  
 2nd Thurs. @ 7:30 PM  
**Historic Commission:**  
 3rd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM

**Durham Township:**  
[www.durhamtownship.org](http://www.durhamtownship.org)  
 610-346-8911  
 215 Old Furnace Road

**Supervisors:** 2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 PM  
**Planning Commission:**  
 1st Tues. @ 7:30 PM  
**EAC:** 3rd Tues. @ 7:30 PM

**Lower Saucon:**  
[www.lowersaucontownship.org](http://www.lowersaucontownship.org)

610-865-3291  
 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike  
**Council:** 1st and 3rd Wed. @ 7 PM  
**Planning Commission:**  
 3rd Thurs. @ 7 PM  
**EAC:** 1st Tues. @ 7 PM

**Williams Township:**  
[www.williamstwp.org](http://www.williamstwp.org)  
 610-258-6060  
 655 Cider Press Road

**Supervisors:** 2nd Wed. @ 7 PM  
**Planning Commission:** 3rd Wed. @ 7 PM  
**Land Preservation Board:**  
 3rd Mon. @ 7 PM

**Richland Township:**  
[www.richlandtownship.org](http://www.richlandtownship.org)  
 215-536-4066  
 1328 California Road

**Supervisors:** 2nd and 4th Mon. @ 7 PM  
**Planning Commission:** 3rd Tues. @ 7 PM  
**Preservation Board:** 2nd Thurs. @ 7 PM



## *Renew your membership....*

As you can see from the article, *Across the Board*, Cooks Creek is an important resource for our community.

It is time to renew some memberships. Don't forget to renew yours and take advantage of our many opportunities to have fun, help the environment and your local community.

If you want to get more involved, come to a meeting and share your talents and interests! *(Membership form on back page)*

