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CRC

2018 *Community Update*

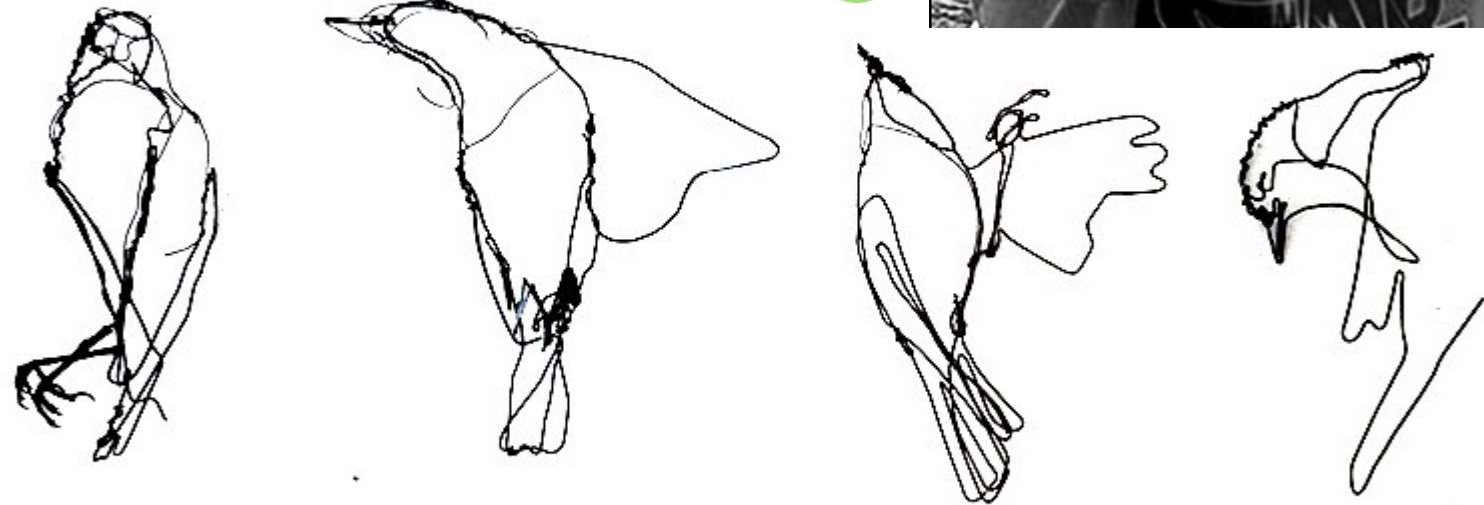


Caring for our Watersheds

About CRC

Caring for our creeks and their watersheds is what Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association (CRC) is all about. We are devoted to the protection of water resources and the natural environment of the Chester, Ridley, and Crum creek watersheds, and the health, recreational, and quality of life benefits they afford the residents of this region. Our stewardship area encompasses 132 square miles and 42 municipalities in Southeast Pennsylvania. The majority of the watersheds are located in the Delaware and Chester counties. CRC's initiatives include long term, tree reforestation, streambank protection programs, streams cleanups, education and outreach programs, stream monitoring, and promoting watershed advocacy.

Our wonderful volunteer teams see to it that our creeks are cared for and bring passion for encouraging and promoting the enjoyment of the environments in our watersheds.



A Letter from the President

A Letter from the President

What an amazing year we have experienced! This last year has seen us not only hire remarkable talent to improve the planning and execution of our vital programs, but we have been the recipients of a record outpour of support indicating how important our core programs are to the health of our watersheds and communities.

To begin with, grants and individual donations allowed us to expand our tree planting and invasives management programs. We planted more trees and shrubs, and conducted maintenance on past plantings in a manner never before accomplished by CRC. In addition, our streams cleanup program was expanded to include more locations than in previous years thanks in part to our staff's unending desire to support the needs of the local waterways.

We also substantially increased our Corporate partnerships, creating volunteer days focused on connecting Corporate "Green Teams" and sustainability programs with the needs of local tree planting, invasives management, and tree maintenance. These kind of program enhancements will remain a vital part of CRC's future.

Of course, we are nothing without our core of dedicated volunteers that brave heat and humidity, bugs, and other local maladies to get the job done. They come toting shovels and rakes and axes, combined with a "can do" attitude, ready to get dirty and make a vivacious contribution to those programs that are at the heart of CRC's mission. We know that we are only as good as our volunteers, and for that reason we are hugely indebted to their mindful efforts and unending backing. We are constantly working to find new ways to match their energy and desire to give to the environment and care for the civic good.

Our future is very bright. We continue to expand our core programs and match community desires to "do real work" improving the health of the three watersheds. Our Board, our staff, our volunteers, and our partners make a formidable team. In the year ahead, we will be filling our longstanding need for a full time Executive Director. We will also work to expand our grant writing to fund our key programs. To spearhead this, our Board has increased its financial support as a show of our backing of the organization, and this selfless act has helped initiate our Leadership Campaign, which is a stepping stone to our 2020 celebration of CRC being involved in the community for 50 years!

Please join us in our efforts to improve the health and enjoyment of the watersheds. It is indeed a celebration.

Tracy Bouvette

President

On Behalf of the CRC Board of Directors

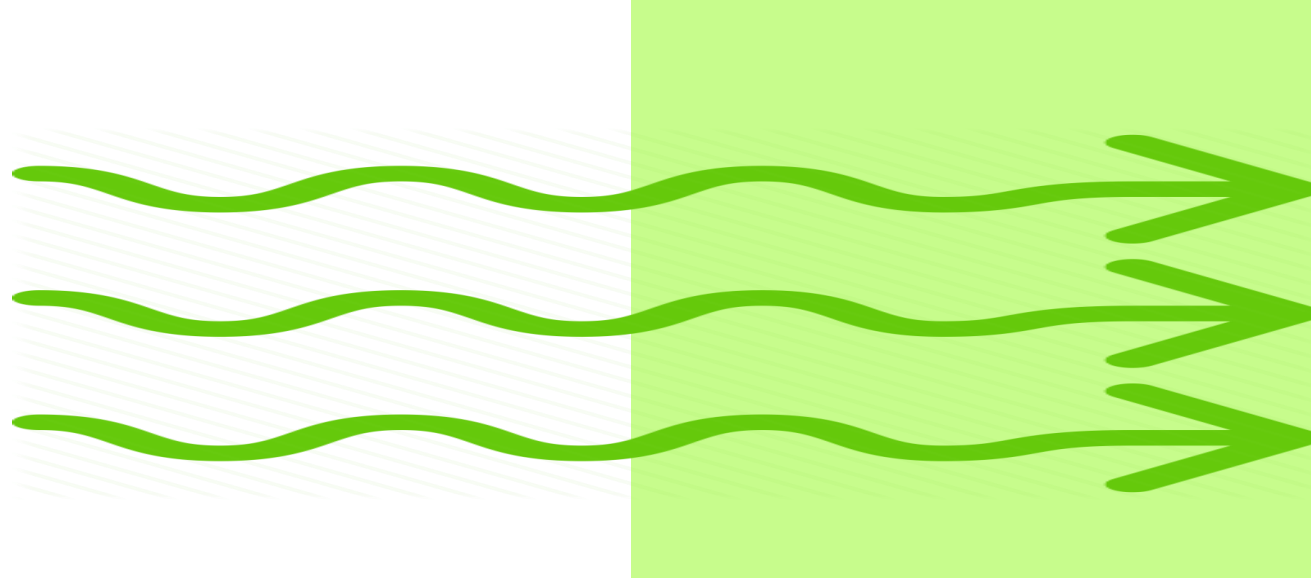
Streams Cleanup

CRC has been a force for environmental stewardship in our community for many years, and one of the things we are best known for is the Annual Streams Cleanup. This year we entered our third decade of cleaning the Chester, Ridley and Crum creeks with our 21st consecutive Earth Day cleanup event.

On April 21 over 800 volunteers came out to 34 different sites throughout the area. We are grateful to this enthusiastic group of people, many who come back to the Cleanup year after year. Under the supervision of our dedicated Site Coordinators, they pulled out over ten tons of trash! Our intrepid volunteers do what is necessary to get the work done, from wading through the streams, to towing large items out of the water, to picking up debris along the streambeds. As always, the volunteers find an incredible array of items – this year they pulled out a trampoline, tires, engine block, and shopping carts. Although it can be disheartening to see these items polluting our streams, it is ultimately gratifying and imperative that the trash be removed. And in some cases, the volunteers report that sites seem cleaner year after year. Once an area is relatively free of trash, people are less likely to dump items. We are seeing long-term positive results from this yearly event.

Our Volunteers Wear Working Boots but Leave a Trail of Angel Footsteps

We are grateful to the many people and organizations who make the Annual Streams Cleanup possible. The Site Coordinators take on the substantial responsibility and give many hours to managing their site preparations and overseeing their volunteers. Various organizations provide financial support through sponsorships and supply donations. Area municipalities share our goals and values and give their support through coordination and promotion. And hundreds of like-minded people – ranging from young children to senior citizens – get their hands dirty every year to make our watersheds that much cleaner. All of this exceptional work, passion and commitment come together to forward the CRC mission to preserve and protect our environment.



Trees in our Watersheds

We are proud of our past and current tree plantings. Since 2005, CRC, our volunteers, and partners have planted over 8,000 trees and shrubs in riparian and upland areas to slow and reduce stormwater runoff, reduce erosion and sediment load to our streams, filter groundwater, provide habitat, and increase shade to reduce invasives and improve the overall health of our watersheds. We see extensive growth for this program due to municipal need and community interest. We will be planning and conducting many more large tree and shrub installations in the coming year.

In the past year, CRC conducted plantings in Crozer Park, Chester; Edgmont Little League Field/ Gable Park Newtown Square; Serpentine Preserve, Willistown; and Rose Tree Park, Media.

The needs of our plantings do not end after the trees are in the ground. While CRC has always worked to maintain their plantings, we have started a more concerted effort to identify areas we have planted that need attention to control invasive weeds, overgrowth, and replenish mulch and caging around the trees and shrubs. Some invasive management is included during each planting event (in fact, some of our volunteers really enjoy pulling vines and yanking Japanese hops off our planting sites). We have worked at Darlington Trail, Middletown and Crozer Park, Chester where we previously planted to continue to maintain the trees and shrubs.

Trees are the longest living organisms on Earth, and never die of old age.

Our *Tree Planting Fund*, which started at the 12th CRC Annual Awards Dinner, uses donations for planting and maintaining trees and shrubs. We continued the tradition at the 2017 Dinner, and have started a CRC Tree Fund, GoFundMe page ([gofundme.com/crc-tree-fund](https://www.gofundme.com/crc-tree-fund)).

CRC continues to be generously supported by the State of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and many local corporations and foundations. We have several corporate and national volunteer groups that assist us at our planting and maintenance events, including Aqua, Voya, Harrah's, and DePuy Synthes.



Education and Outreach

This year the Education and Outreach Committee continued to build its innovative “Yellow Shirts” program, expanding the Yellow Shirts corps to include all the site coordinators for our annual Streams Cleanup. Yellow Shirts are volunteers who act as CRC ambassadors at each of our events. They mingle with volunteers and provide information in informal, one-on-one conversations. They answer questions about our watersheds, explain the challenges facing our streams, and share facts about how CRC is improving the health of our local ecosystem. We now have more than 80 Yellow Shirts. We appreciate the willingness of these key volunteers to do whatever is needed – carry buckets of water, apply band-aids, or tell stories about the important work CRC is doing.

In June of 2018, CRC hosted the first Stream Side Nature Hike. Although the hike was initially limited to 30 people, a few more than 30 showed up on the wet Saturday morning at Ridley Creek State Park where hike leaders Kevin Magerr (EPA Environmental Engineer), Ralph Spagnolo (EPA Wetland Biologist), and Gary Stolz (Ridley Creek State Park Naturalist Educator) offered a hands-on walk along the streams to show participants “how healthy forests make healthy streams,” the theme for the event.

Healthy Forests make Healthy Streams



Discover the Wonder of the Creeks

Adults and kids alike enjoyed splashing in the stream to collect water samples, which they then tested for dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature and salinity. And of course, everyone was interested in the macroinvertebrate activity in the stream.

Throughout the hike, Kevin, Ralph and Gary led discussions about native and non-native species, the importance of vernal pools and other wetland features, and the ecological linkage between riparian forest and stream health. And, along with Yellow Shirt Maggie Dunn, they answered questions about how CRC is helping protect this vital ecosystem. Another Nature Hike is planned for June 2019.



Volunteers are the Heart of CRC

As a volunteer-based organization, CRC depends on the many volunteers who work with us each year to protect and preserve the creeks in the Chester, Ridley and Crum watersheds. Through streams cleanups and tree plantings, the CRC Volunteer Coordination Program provides opportunities for volunteers to support efforts that benefit our watersheds. Over 1000 volunteers come out each year to do it all! They dig holes for new trees, clear invasive weeds, haul tires out of the streams, pick up tons of trash that pollute our waterways, and much, much more.

Connection is Power

The power of our volunteers is truly awesome and the CRC Volunteer Coordination Program is a catalyst to harness all of that passion and energy. Not only does the Program engage and mobilize a large base of motivated and informed volunteers. More importantly, we **connect** local residents, youth groups, community organizations, colleges, corporations and municipalities to improve labor efficiencies and enhance synergies in public and pri-

Our Volunteers Wear Working Boots but Leave a Trail of Angel Footsteps

Connecting Stakeholders: We establish and enhance networks of residents, municipalities and organization in our communities to harness the resources needed to maintain parks and open space with a specific focus on clean streams, tree planting and maintenance.

Sharing Best Practices: Our volunteer network engages in policy development issues, which relate to regional watershed management, water quality monitoring, and stormwater management to improve the investment of public and private funding in areas of environmental planning and management.

THANK YOU to our energetic and enthusiastic volunteers!



This past year some of our wonderful volunteers were from Aqua, Harrah's, Widener University, Voya, DePuy Synthes, West Chester University, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, SCI Chester and the Lions Club.

Building Capacity: CRC acts as a central coordinator for volunteer groups helping to focus volunteerism in the watersheds and provide training and increase volunteer retention throughout the year.

Making a Difference Today
for Generations
to Come



Our Resources at Work



Income Summary (1000's)

	2017-2018	2016-2017
Program	54.0	44.5
Grants	50.3	37.0
Contributions	26.4	17.4
Membership	19.7	16.5
Other	.04	.08
Leadership Campaign	21.0	

Income Sources

Program	32%
Grants	29%
Contributions	15%
Leadership Campaign	12%
Membership	11%
Other	1%

Expense Efficiency

Administration	31%
Program	31%
Grants	20%
Fundraising	18%



Donor Gifts

Caring People
Making an
Extraordinary Impact

\$2500 and above	Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources DePuy Synthes Mr. and Mrs. Ted Leisenring	Sunoco Pipeline LP / Energy Transfer Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Swope
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\$1,000 to \$2,499	Mr. and Mrs. John Custer, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fernandes George & Miriam Martin Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Dale Goodman Mr. and Mrs. Steve Graham Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Harper Mr. and Mrs. David Haury Mr. and Mrs. Tony Hitschler Mr. and Mrs. James Holt Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMenamin Mr. and Mrs. Britton Murdoch	Mr. and Mrs. Gary Murphy Mr. and Mrs. Steve Murray Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nassau Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Newbold, Esq. PECO Philadelphia Foundation - Dapplecroft Fund Sartomer USA, LLC Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Schmidt Mr. Jeff Warden West Chester Borough Public Works Willistown Conservation Trust
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\$500 to \$999	Concord Township Ms. Julia Davidson and Mr. Jay Lippman Delaware County Conservation District East Goshen Township Edgmont Township Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Flatley Dr. and Mrs. David Gasser Ms. Julia Leisenring Marple Township	Media Borough Mr. and Mrs. Scott Messer Middletown Township Nolan Painting Octoraro Native Plant Nursery Provident Energy Consulting Riddle Village Ridley Park Borough	Ridley Township Rothacker Advertising & Design Seltzer and Associates Spectra Energy Springfield Township Stantec Consulting Services Sun East Federal Credit Union Swarthmore Centennial Foundation	Mr. and Mrs. Fairman Thompson Thornbury Township, Delaware County Mr. and Mrs. Chris Townend Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner Videon Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM Voya Financial Westtown Township Willistown Township
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\$250 to \$499	NMott MacDonald atural Lands Nether Providence Township Newtown Township Pennonni Associates, Inc. Princeton Hydro, LLC Mr. and Mrs. David Rawson Rose Valley Folk Sierra Club of Southeastern PA Mr. Joseph Solomon and Ms. Kathleen Heupler Ms. Jodi Spragins and Mr. Brook Gardner Swarthmore Borough Dr. and Mrs. Philip Taylor Thomas Comitta Associates Upper Providence Township Villanova University Sustainable Engineering Program Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership Mr. and Mrs. Bill Warden West Goshen Lions Club West Goshen Township White Horse Village
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\$100 to \$249	Charlestown Township Collingdale Borough Mr. and Mrs. Kent Davidson Ms. Margaret Dunn Mr. and Mrs. David Eberly Dr. and Mrs. Richard Erickson Mr. John Frazier, IV Mr. and Mrs. Randy Gaboriault Ms. Lisa Gaffney Garden Club of Springfield Mr. and Mrs. William Gerhardt Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Gibian Mr. Brian Hall and Ms. Celia Chen Mr. and Mrs. John Hopkins Mr. and Mrs. David Hucker Ms. Ann Jackson Mr. and Mrs. Craig Jackson Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kosiak Mr. and Mrs. John Krasnowiecki	Lansdowne Borough Providence Garden Club of PA Ms. Lora Lavin Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ledger Mr. Charles Lee, Jr. Ms. Evelyn McLaughlin Middletown Township Land Conservancy Monarch Staffing Mostardi Nursery Ms. Eileen Nelson Ms. Virginia Strong Newlin Parkside Borough Mr. and Mrs. Art Polishuk Mr. and Mrs. Cosmo Prinbeck Mr. David Rahr Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rawson Mr. Donald Red Mr. Thomas Reeves Ms. Louisa Ridgway	Rose Valley Borough Mr. Andrew Saul Mr. and Mrs. Ross Schmucki Mr. Mac Given and Ms. Barbara Scott Mr. and Mrs. Laird Slade Mr. and Mrs. John Smith Ms. Linton Stables and Mr. Gregory Brown Mr. and Mrs. William Suplee The Country Press Tredyffrin Township Upper Chichester Township Upper Providence for Open Space Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wall Ms. Jean Wallace and Mr. Neil Goldstein Weeds, Inc. Mr. Theodore Weiss and Ms. Linda Shirer Mr. and Mrs. Richard White Mr. and Mrs. Cas Wolanin
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Up to \$100	Mr. Kevin Dion Ms. Patricia DiRosa Mr. and Mrs. Carl DuPoldt East Whiteland Township Mr. and Mrs. James Emrich Mr. Philip Fedako Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ferry Mr. and Mrs. Justin Finneran Mr. and Mrs. David Finn Ms. Linda Fitzgerald Flyway Excavating Ms. Jeanne Frantz Ms. Valerie Fusco Mr. and Mrs. David Geveke Mr. Eric Tamulonis and Ms. Deirdre Gibson Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gilardi Dr. Susan Gill and Mr. Garth Gill Glenolden Borough Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Graham Mr. Fredrick Haack Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Haber Hollywood Landscaping Mr. and Mrs. Tim Horn Mr. and Mrs. Tony Iannucci Mr. Ed Jaworowski Mr. Torben Jenk and Ms. Donna Walker Mr. and Mrs. Mark John Mr. and Mrs. Mark Johnson Mr. Andrew Jones and Ms. Judy Olsen Mr. and Mrs. Steven Katz Ms. Barbarann Keffer Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kelly Kelly & Close Consulting Engineers Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kennedy Mr. John Kennedy	Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Lafferty Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lambert Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Leininger Mr. and Mrs. Jonathon Lichtenstein Mr. Eric Lien Mr. Charles Lillicrapp, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Litecky Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacKenzie Mr. Kevin Magerr Malvern Borough Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Marshall Mr. Rocco Masticolo Mr. Richard McCloskey Mr. Carlin McCoy Mr. and Mrs. Pat McGovern Ms. Lauren McKinney Ms. Mary McLaughlin and Mr. Kevin Nolan Ms. Lynn Meza Mr. and Mrs. Jaydee Miller Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morbeck Moving the Needle Indivisible Swarthmore Ms. Dawn Murray Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nagel Mr. and Mrs. Donald Natale Newlin Grist Mill Open Connections, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ostroski Penn State Brandywine Mr. and Mrs. William Pfeiffer Ms. Judy Politzer Ms. Denise Polk Mr. and Mrs. David Pomante Prospect Park Borough Mr. and Mrs. Roger Purdy Ms. Martha Ralphe	Mr. Brad Randall and Ms. Berrie Torgan Mr. and Mrs. David Redash Mr. and Mrs. Chris Reynolds Mr. Ronald Ricchezza and Ms. Jacqui Maban Mr. Corbin Riemer and Ms. Sherry Jordan Ms. Marie Russell Ms. Deborah Samans Mr. Roger Sealy and Ms. Jessica Aronfreed Mr. and Mrs. Henry Siegel Ms. Susan Sliwinski Ms. Sari Steuber Mr. and Mrs. Jay Surrena Mr. Zulfiqar Tahir Ms. Dot Talley Taylor Arboretum Team Toyota of Glen Mills Mr. and Mrs. Craig Thomas Thornbury Township, Chester County Ms. Marian Toland Trainer Borough Tyler Arboretum Ms. Joan Urban Mr. and Mrs. Brian Vadino Mr. and Mrs. James Valentino Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Alen Voya Wallingford Swarthmore School District Mr. Tom Wang Wawa, Inc. Willistown Chase HOA Mr. Steve Wood Mr. and Mrs. Eric Ye Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yorke Ms. Christina Zettner Mr. Ewald Zittlau
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