

DARBY CREEK CLEAN UP BIGGEST IN 34 YEARS

On Saturday April 14th, hundreds of volunteers jumped into a creek.

The 34th Annual Darby Creek-Cobbs Creek Watershed Cleanup was the biggest in the event's history, according to Darby Creek Valley Association Committee Chair David Bennett.

"The annual cleanup, our 34th, has grown beyond our original geographic boundaries," said Bennett. "It's gratifying that so many more municipalities and local environment organizations and their leaders have joined up to help include our entire watershed."

Hard working volunteers turned out at 38 designated cleanup sites throughout the Darby Creek/Cobbs Creek watershed, covering most of Delaware County, plus parts of Chester, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. Remaining sites will be scheduled for cleanup at a later date.

Dozens of DelCo communities took part on April 14th, including Glenolden, Marple, Springfield, Drexel Hill, Colwyn, Radnor and Newtown to name only a few.

The crew at Drexel Hill's Collenbrook Farm was led by Clyde Hunt, who reported, "We filled the Collenbrook dumpster with invasives and some trash, plus a 5 gallon bucket of recyclables we brought back home."

Over in Glenolden it was a real team effort, headed up by James Labonski. Helping out were Borough Manager Brian Razzi, Katherine Marenic, Debbie Hadden, Susan Caso-Bolnick, Diana Anderjczak, Dawn Pennack and a group from Glenolden Presbyterian Church led by Debbie Hadden. A big thank-you to Matthew DeMarco & Chris Kane from Glenolden Wal-Mart for contributing water, soda and snacks.

Sue Miller, DCVA's Director, welcomed Marple Township to the Clean-Up this year. Rick Flounders of Broomall Rotary cleaned the creek where Route 3 meets Lawrence Road.

Handling Whetstone Run on the Don Guanella property in Marple was Chuck Protesto. Chuck commented, "The best news was that as we were working, a driver stopped and he said that he worked at Home Depot and that Home Depot would like to help out next time. Then, as we were on Reed Road by M. Cohan Iron Shop, one of their managers offered us the use of one of their dumpsters. It's community help like that that is going to get this area cleaned up!"

In Springfield, DCVA salutes its volunteer team including Dave Damon, Jamie Anderson, and the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for a job well done.

Radnor's cleanup was led by Lisa Borowski, who praised DCVA as well as the volunteers who gathered 20 bags of trash. "Our amazing volunteers collected an extraordinary amount of trash along Darby Creek, including old tires, tools and machine parts. Everyone felt great taking care of our natural environment this way." Borowski added, "Special thanks goes to Radnor Conservancy for partnering with DCVA on this big event."

The Drexel Hill area featured two clean up sites: Naylor's Run in Drexel Garden Park, captained by long-time volunteer Ann Jackson, where 29 bags of trash (and 2 shopping carts) were removed from the creek, and Bloomfield, under the leadership of Maureen McMahon and Tony Bastian.

A great job was done in Colwyn as well, where the team was led by Parks & Recreation Chair Anita Roy.

Finally, kudos to the crew from Newtown Square for their hard work. Martin Milligan captained the team.

By removing trash – from truck tires to plastic bags and bottles – participants helped beautify the waterway, making it healthier for wildlife and more enjoyable for recreation.

The Darby Creek Valley Association thanks the hundreds of volunteers who made this region-wide cleanup happen. Groups or individuals interested in learning more about DCVA's numerous year-round programs and volunteer opportunities are invited to visit www.DCVA.org or call Director Sue Miller at (484) 222 2502.