



Chester County, PA

Volume 4 Issue 2

July 2010

Recycling Matters



Jim and Erin Trouba, FT's Recycling Coordinators

When she was five years old Erin Trouba, now 18, started volunteering at the Township's Recycling Center on Saturday mornings with her dad, Jim Trouba, the Township's volunteer Recycling Coordinator. The Troubas would help people separate their recyclables into bins in a trailer that SECCRA would haul away for recycling.

As times changed and curbside recycling was offered, a manned Saturday Recycling Center was no longer necessary. Jim worked with Franklin Township's supervisors to establish a pro-
(Continued on page 2)

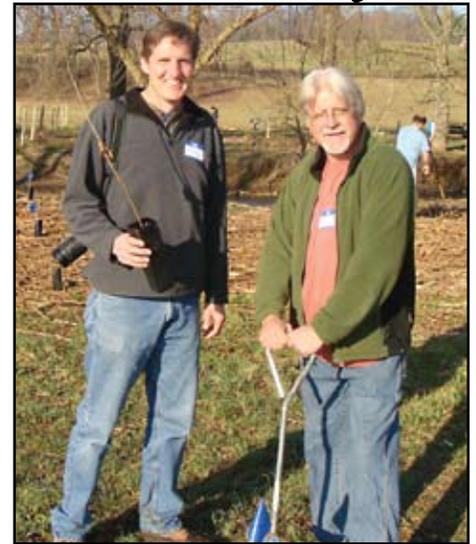
We Planted a Forest That Day

In March Franklin Township undertook a major riparian buffer restoration project at Goodwin Preserve. Over 2,400 saplings were planted in just over 3 hours with the help of nearly 200 volunteers. It was amazing to see acres of trees planted in such a short time.

First and foremost, to everyone who came out early on a Saturday morning to help—Thank You! The planting of each tree is labor intensive and having so many willing, able-bodied people helping made the work seem effortless. Also, thank you to the many businesses that donated goods and services to our project.

The project would never have gone so smoothly without advanced planning. Franklin Township resident Bill Skalish chaired the project with Supervisor Paul Overton and the assistance of Assistant Township Manager Jeff Eastburn and the Township's Open Space Committee.

"People really want to help with projects like this," says Bill, who was



Paul Overton and Bill Skalish at Goodwin Preserve

recruited by the Township to chair this event. "I got to meet people I never would have otherwise. In hindsight I had a good time and would probably do it again."

Bill recruited his wife Beth and Nicole Frank to help. An Excel spreadsheet and time line were established; each task was identified and a date attached. "People stepped up and did
(Continued on page 2)

Creating Reflecting Gardens

Carolyn Lewis chose to create two Reflecting Gardens out of overgrown areas in Crossan Park for her Girl Scout Gold Award service project.

"I wanted to create a quiet place where people could sit, reflect and experience nature," she says.

Todd Mummert of Todd's Landscaping lent his expertise in trimming and restoring the overgrown shrubbery.

Carolyn organized a planting day for

each garden. Members of Girl Scout Troop 4149 (her troop), Boy Scout Troop 30 and members of the Christian Life Center helped plant the gardens.

The Township supported the project with a donation and she raised additional funds to cover the cost of plants.

Carolyn is a resident of Franklin Township and is the daughter of Becky and Steve Lewis. She will be a senior at Avon Grove High School this fall.



Carolyn tends the plants in one of the Reflecting Gardens. This garden will have a plaque dedicated to residents who have been affected by breast cancer.

Lending a Helping Hand at Crossan Park



Members of the Christian Life Center, in New London, Pa. volunteered at Crossan Park one afternoon by spreading mulch, planting flowers and weeding some of the gardens. Thank you for all your work!

Recycling Matters (cont. from page 1)

gram where the bins could be unmanned and open at all times for those who chose to bring their recyclables to the Center.

Although Erin and Jim were no longer needed on a weekly basis, Jim remained the Township's Recycling Coordinator and continued to answer residents questions about recycling. He became Franklin's representative on SECCRA's Board of Directors where he helped establish recycling programs for anti-freeze, used motor oil and batteries.

Erin helped her dad track the Township's recycling effort and file the annual grant reports. Each year the Township receives funds based on the amount of recycled materials collected in the Township. In the past 10 years the Township received \$31,000 back from the state for recycling. Last year about 7.5 percent of the Township's total waste, or 340 tons, was recycled.

"Recycling keeps things out of the landfill," says Erin on why she supports the Township's recycling program. "It doesn't take an extraneous effort to recycle and preserve our resources." Erin is majoring in Environmental Resource Management at Penn State University in order to become prepared to help communities find ways to do a better job recycling and managing their resources. Her interests are pollution prevention and land preservation.

"Recycling protects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil where we grow food," says Jim on why he commits his time to this cause. "I do it for my kids, my neighborhood, my community, state, country— for society and the world."

**Household Hazardous Waste Recycling:
Sept. 11 at New Garden Township Maintenance Building
(on Route 41 near Newark Road)
Details at www.chestercounty.org**

Theft from Vehicles #1 Concern

At a recent Franklin Township Board of Supervisors' meeting Pennsylvania State Police Lieutenant Tracy Brown, of the Avondale Barracks, said the primary crime area of concern in Franklin Township (and surrounding communities) is theft from motor vehicles and the use of the information obtained from the vehicles to execute identity theft. Burglars are entering unlocked vehicles parked in people's open garages and driveways and easily removing the valuables inside.

Lieutenant Brown stated that 90 percent of all thefts from motor vehicles are preventable. The following are prevention suggestions:

- Lock your vehicles (even when parked in your own driveway)
- Do not leave keys in your vehicle.
- Remove valuables from the vehicle including purses, wallets, cell phones, iPods, computers, cash and GPS units (even when parked in your own driveway).
- When removal is not possible, anything of value that might tempt an individual to break into a locked vehicle should be placed in the trunk or hidden from sight.
- Keep valuables out of sight in your car when parked in public locations as break-ins are happening at local shopping centers, as well as church and school parking lots.
- Report suspicious people seen in your neighborhood to the police.

We Planted a Forest... (cont. from page 1)

what had to get done."

The day before the community planting, the area was divided into zones and flags placed to mark planting locations.

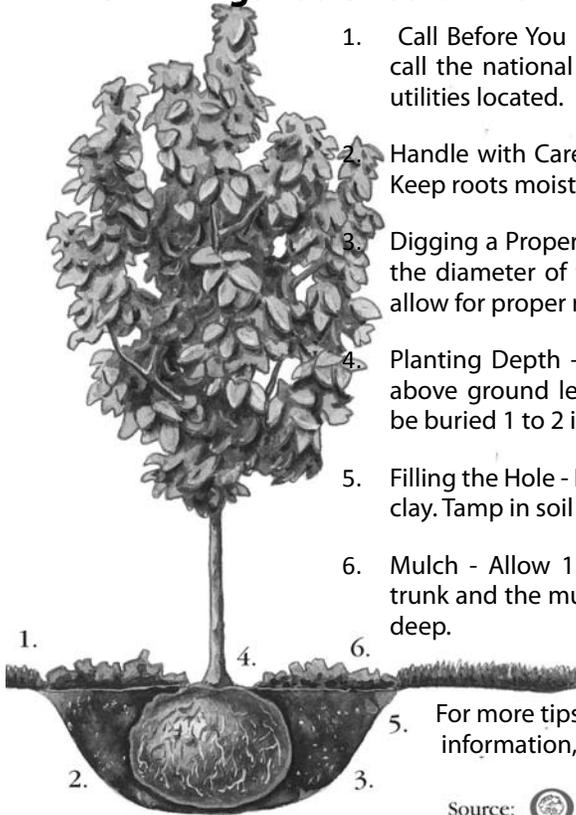
Employees of North Creek Nurseries volunteered as team leaders. As volunteers arrived they were divided into teams and under the supervision of a leader planted a section of trees.

"I live in Franklin Township and value nature," says Nicole on why she whole-heartedly jumped into helping her employer (Bill) organize the project. "We need to do things like this. It was amazing to see such a large project come together; a lot of people doing little things (made things move smoothly)."

"When I heard a youngster say, 'we planted a forest today,' it made it all worthwhile," says Bill.

Two months later and the newly-planted trees are doing great. Paul, Bill, Beth, Nicole and others continue to monitor the site and care for the trees.

Six Things You Should Know When Planting a Tree



1. Call Before You Dig - Several days before planting, call the national 811 hotline to have underground utilities located.
2. Handle with Care - Always lift tree by the root ball. Keep roots moist until planting.
3. Digging a Proper Hole - Dig 2 to 5 times wider than the diameter of the root ball with sloping sides to allow for proper root growth.
4. Planting Depth - The trunk flare should sit slightly above ground level and the topmost roots should be buried 1 to 2 inches
5. Filling the Hole - Backfill with native soil unless it's all clay. Tamp in soil gently to fill large air spaces.
6. Mulch - Allow 1 to 2 inch clearance between the trunk and the mulch. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep.

5. For more tips and tree planting information, visit www.arborday.org

Source:  [Arbor Day Foundation](http://www.arborday.org)

Streets Trees and Trimming

Street trees are a beautiful thing, except when they're extending out into the travel lanes of a roadway.

It is suggested that property owners trim the branches extending into the roadway up to a height where the tallest truck will not hit the limbs.

The Township will evaluate all subdivisions and crews will start removing hazardous branches later this summer. If you want to direct how the trimming is done, please make it a priority now. It's almost a sure thing that if the Township's contractor does the trimming, some property owners will be dissatisfied with the work.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Putting the "Green" Back in Lawn Care

Reprinted with permission from
"Nature Notes"

a Natural Lands Trust Community Newsletter

Did you know that American homeowners apply 10 times more fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides to their grass than farmers do to their crops? This results in chemically dependent lawns that negatively affect the health of people, pets, plants, and wildlife beyond the sidewalk's edge. But by adopting a common sense, environmentally savvy approach to caring for our backyards, it's easy to create a beautiful lawn that's healthier for everyone—and save money in the process!

1. **Get to Know Your Soil:** Stop dumping fertilizer and other chemicals on your lawn without first understanding what your soil really needs. For about \$10 you can purchase a soil test kit from the county's Cooperative Extension Office. Once you send

it back, Penn State's Agricultural Services Lab will test your sample and mail your results. (For more information, visit www.aasl.psu.edu or call 814-863-0841.)

2. **Timing is Everything:** If you do apply fertilizer, apply it between the last lawn mowing and Thanksgiving when it will feed the grass's roots and not the leaves. Spring fertilizing encourages leaf growth and feeds weed species.

3. **Cut it Out:** Sharp mower blades slice through grass rather than pulling it by the roots, so be sure to sharpen them annually. While you are at it, set the blades for a mowing height that will remove only the top one-third of the grass (about 3 inches). This higher setting will allow the grass to compete with lower growing weeds. Taller grass also shades the ground from the sun, reducing the need to water.

4. **Clip and Save:** Grass clippings

decompose rapidly and are best left on the lawn where they can contribute nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil, thus reducing fertilizer requirements. And don't worry about the large clumps of grass that might remain after mowing. Mow a second time around, or use them to mulch around trees or in the garden. Better yet, they can be recycled into your compost pile.

5. **Develop a Wilder Aesthetic:** Weeds can offer unexpected benefits to your lawn's ecosystem. For example, white clover and dandelion attract aphid-hungry ladybugs and beneficial pollinators such as native bees. Additionally, chemical lawn treatment can kill between 60 and 90 percent of earthworms, which are essential to soil health. Someone once said "wildflowers are weeds with press agents" so consider accepting a little lawn imperfection for Nature's sake.

West Grove Fire Company Substation 3 Update

Plans continue moving forward for a West Grove Fire Company substation (Substation 3) near the intersection with Flint Hill Road and Route 896. Although in London Britain Township, the proximity to residents of Franklin Township will improve response times for everyone in WGFC's southern region.

The new substation will be approximately 60 by 80-feet and include two drive-through bays and office space.

At the May meeting of West Grove Fire Company, members approved the purchase of a new fire truck for WGFC Substation 3. It is expected to take a year for delivery of this new apparatus. An ambulance will also be stationed there.

After receiving final approval from PennDOT, London Britain Township completed the entrance, stormwater management and site development for the fire station earlier this spring.

WGFC expects construction of the station to take about six to eight months to complete.

Volunteers will be needed at the new substation. If interested call West Grove Fire Company at 610-869-8326, or email info@wgfc.org.

A Report on the "Reforestation the Watershed" Workshop

"...the single most important factor explaining variation in water quality in the region is the percentage of tree cover in each watershed."*

Forty-two residents and officials, primarily from London Grove and Franklin Townships, dedicated a Saturday morning to learn how planting trees improves streams and communities, how they can become involved, and received a large potted native tree for their yard.

Although the White Clay Creek watershed is a National Wild and Scenic River, over three-quarters of the stream segments are identified as unhealthy because of the considerable stormwater flows and the pollutants they carry. Planting trees is the 'Best Management Practice' to clean our water, reduce flooding, beautify our surroundings, create wildlife habitat, and help maintain our temperate climate. The White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Program partnered with the Brandywine Conservancy, Stroud Water Research Center, and London Grove and Franklin Townships to share a vision for the watershed and ways to realize it.

*The 2009 White Clay Creek Watershed Reforestation Plan set a goal of 40 percent forest cover for the White Clay Watershed. Franklin Township is currently 28 percent forested (1400 acres), second to London Britain Township, which is approximately 38 percent forested. Learn more at www.whiteclay.org (Click on Resources, click on "White Clay Creek Reforestation Plan, Full Report").

Special Programs in the White Clay Creek

Celebrating 2010 and the White Clay Watershed's 10th anniversary as a designated federal Wild and Scenic Watershed, 10 monthly programs were planned for the year. Although a few have already occurred the following may be of interest:

- Historic Buildings in the Preserve, Saturday, July 24, 10 am
- North Creek Nursery Tour, Saturday, August 7, 9-11 am
- Hale Byrnes House History (Delaware), Saturday, September 25, 2-4 pm
- Bi-State Preserve Hike, Saturday, October 16, 1 pm

For program details click the "10 4 10" link at the White Clay Wild and Scenic's website: www.whiteclay.org. Call the White Clay Creek State Park Office to reserve your space or for more information, (302)368-6900.

Correction from February 2010 Issue: The Victorian farmhouse featured in the Historic Rescues story should have been identified as The McMullen farm, not McMillan.

Township Directory

Board of Supervisors

Dick Whipple, Chairman
Nan Latimer, Vice Chairman
Eric Brindle, Member
Norman Hughes, Member
Paul Overton, Member

Administration

Jeffrey Eastburn, Assistant Township Manager
Joan McVaugh, Treasurer
Sharon Norris, Secretary
Eileen Rembecki, Secretary (part-time)
Maureen Zdun, Secretary (part-time)
Duane Brady, Building Inspector and Zoning Officer

Contact Information

In person:

20 Municipal Lane
Kemblesville, Pa. 19347
Office Hours: M-F, 8 am-4 pm

By Phone: 610-255-5212

By Fax: 610-255-0659

By Mail:

P. O. Box 118
Kemblesville, PA 19347

Email: info@franklintownship.us

On the web: www.franklintownship.us

Township Meetings

All meetings are held in the meeting room at the Township Office.

Supervisors' Work Session-

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Supervisors' Board Meeting-

3rd Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Planning Commission-

1st Thursday of the month, 7pm

Historical Architectural Review Board

and Historic Commission-

1st Tuesday of the month, 7pm

Open Space Commission-

Second Tuesday of the month, 7 pm

Want more info?

The Township's website is continuously updated!

www.franklintownship.us

The Franklin Township Newsletter is published by the Franklin Township Board of Supervisors and produced by Lucas Communications and Publications.

The Goodwin Preserve Community Tree Planting

March 20, 2010



Over 200 volunteers
+ 3 hours =
2,450 trees planted
in Goodwin Preserve!

Thanks to all who
helped in this
extremely
important endeavor.





Now stuccoed, the original log dwelling of the Furey tavern and home.

FT's Oldest Remaining House

Near the intersection of Chesterville Road (Route 841) and New London Road (Route 896) way up off the road and with its entrance on Den Road sits a house with a crooked chimney. The original part of this house is recorded as the oldest house in Franklin Township.

The land this house sits upon was part of 500 acres deeded from William Penn to Robert Ashton in 1705. Some-

where between 1737 and 1742 Hugh and Elizabeth Furey purchased an 135-acre tract of the original deed and farmed the land. After Hugh's death and in 1758 Elizabeth purchased an additional tract of 150 acres with a log structure.

"Petition for a Tavern" records indicate William Alexander, then Matthew Porterfield, ran a tavern from the log dwelling ten years prior to Elizabeth Furey's purchase. She continued as a tavern keeper and farmer. Elizabeth had at least eight children, four of them surviving her death in 1777. Her son Joseph ran the tavern until 1811.

In the early 1800s portions of Elizabeth Furey's properties changed hands many times, usually between various heirs and family members. About 107 acres, including the log tavern were purchased by Joseph's son John and his

wife Susan Steele Furey. John and Susan were farmers, not tavern keepers, and renovated the house for a family dwelling. John died in 1834 with instructions to sell the property and put the profits in interest for his heirs. Susan did as instructed, but then bought the property back the same day.

It is thought that Susan added the first two-story addition onto the log dwelling around 1835. Another 2-story bow addition was added sometime in the late 1800s.

The property was sold in 1887 to neighbors Joseph and Mary Jane Pierce shortly after Susan's death. The Pierce's sold 100 of the acres to Edward Pierce who lived there 17 years.

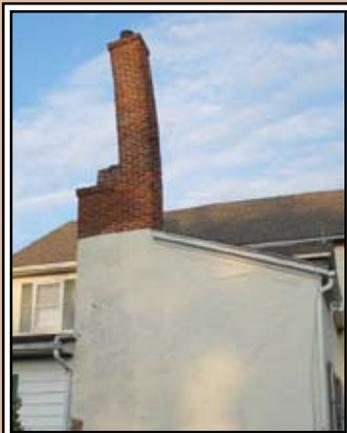
The property's 20th century history includes:

- A sale of the property to James McMullen, remained for 50 years.
- McMullen's heirs sold the farm to a developer in 1968.
- The developer sold 3.2 acres and the original dwelling to the Koseys in 1970.
- In 2004 Lou and Barbara Mandich purchased the property from the Koseys.

Source: Thanks to the Mandich's for sharing the research done on their property. "**History of Louis and Barbara Mandich Home, 148 Den Road, Franklin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania,**" was researched and reported by Mary Dugan, of House Histories.



From the front of the house the two 1800's additions are prominent.



Side view of the original log dwelling shows the crooked chimney. It is thought an extension of the original chimney was needed after the additions.

In Crossan Park, the raised bed gardens flourish. This began as an Eagle Scout project many years ago.



Franklin Township Newsletter
P. O. Box 118
Kembsville, PA 19347