As we enter our 53rd year we are a strong and growing organization.

We are strong with the volunteers who have always been the backbone of Green Valleys. We are strong financially. We are strong in the growing suite of programs and services which take our Mission to the Watersheds, while also reducing administrative costs. And we have used our strengths over the past half century to achieve many important gains for our environment and quality of life.

But these gains cannot be taken for granted. The rapid expansion of the local economy and associated development has always meant new stormwater issues - issues which our organization along with many others are dedicated to identifying and preventing. Now, at the beginning of 2017, we face uncertainty about the continuity of decades of clean water policy at the national level. How and when this will affect state and local policy is unclear; what is abundantly clear is that Green Valleys’ local role in protecting clean water must grow if we are to meet these new challenges.

Welcome to our new Board members!

Melissa Albright is a lifelong nature lover and conservationist, influenced early on by her having a “great time” at Green Valleys’ Summer Camp at the Meeting House in Birchrunville. Melissa volunteers for our annual Stream Day Clean-Ups.

Rob Blumenthal grew up in West Vincent Township, adjacent to the Bryn Coed Farm. He has many fond memories of exploring the open spaces and spending lots of time in the Birch Run and French Creek. His parents were active volunteers (including with Green Valleys), and he too wants to give back to the community by being involved. Rob has completed the Schuylkill Water Stewards program and volunteers with the monitoring program.

Glen Hill, who lives along the French Creek, understands the link between what happens on the land and its effect on the streams. He felt it was time to get involved with the community personally and locally. Glen looks forward to helping with our land programs, including restoring streamside forests.

Christopher Orzechowski is a familiar name at Green Valleys, having served on the Board a number of years ago. His work in the environmental field as well as his volunteer service during Stream Day Clean-Ups make him a welcome addition back to the Board.

Thank you for helping us achieve our 2016 year-end goal!

We are launching three new initiatives which will strengthen the programs and services Green Valleys is providing through our Welkinweir headquarters. Thanks to your contributions, we have exceeded our Annual Appeal goal of $40,000!

Your gifts to our 2016 Annual Appeal are tax-deductible, and directly support the following initiatives:

Environmental Science & Education Center Conceptual Design

We are initiating the design process to transform our existing education building to accommodate our growing environmental education and science programs. This new center will be the base upon which the next generation of Green Valleys educational programs will be built.

Open Space Additions

We have an excellent opportunity to permanently protect forested land adjacent to Welkinweir through fee simple purchase. The parcel has an Exceptional Value tributary which connects Beaver Run to Welkinweir, and provides clean water and habitat for at least one wildlife species of concern. This habitat will be added to Welkinweir’s protected natural lands, and will also protect a segment of the 140-mile-long Horse-Shoe Trail.

Biodiversity Monitoring Stations

GVWA is joining a new and innovative, multi-national bird tracking network, through installation of a solar-powered receiver station at Welkinweir that will capture radio transmitter signals. Increasing automated data collection is an important trend in environmental monitoring of all types -- including water quality. More information on this network is available on page 8.

We are very grateful for your generous support!
Accomplishments

Engaging Professionals and Stakeholders

Green Saves Green Workshop
Green Valleys worked with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to organize an informative workshop on green stormwater infrastructure for professionals in the fields of engineering, landscape architecture, planning, and municipal government. The workshop presented local case studies in successful, nature-based stormwater management and smart planning practices that encourage cost-effective, municipality-wide conservation practices.

Manure Management Workshop
Together with the Chester County Conservation District, Green Valleys developed and presented a manure management workshop to farmers, who then applied the knowledge gained to complete a manure management plan for their own facilities. Manure management is an important water quality protective measure: by preventing manure runoff from fields and pastures, farmers can protect streams from harmful bacteria and other pollutants.

Schuykill Watershed Congress Presentation
Our staff presented at the 2016 Schuykill Watershed Congress, an annual program organized by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network that advances the best available information and techniques for protecting and restoring watersheds, on the topic of quantifying the benefits of green infrastructure. The Schuykill Watershed Congress attracts regional professionals, students, government officials, and individuals who are concerned with water quality in the Schuylkill River Watershed.

Stormwater Best Management Practices Tour
Green Valleys & the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary organized a stormwater project tour for property managers, municipalities, and other interested individuals. 25 participants attended the tour and visited examples of innovative stormwater management and stewardship practices, including rain gardens, naturalized stormwater basins, rainwater infiltration best management practices, and sites utilizing eco-friendly maintenance strategies.

Greener School Campuses
As part of our PADEP Growing Greener Grant, we are working with two universities in the Valley Creek watershed to improve rainwater capture and wildlife habitat on their campuses through stormwater basin naturalization.

Phoenixville Area Middle School students were awarded a 2016 Schuylkill Scholastic Drinking Water Award by the Schuylkill Action Network for their work in creating a bioswale on the school campus. We will expand on the school’s efforts to manage stormwater in 2017 with a new rain garden.

Improving HOA Stormwater Management
Green Valleys is also working with Princeton Hydro engineering firm to develop a stormwater management plan for the Weather-stone Homeowners’ Association in West Vincent Township. This plan will help the Weather-stone development capture and filter more of its stormwater, and will serve as a template for other HOAs to make their properties “greener” as well!

Stream Clean-ups & Community Beautification
Forty five volunteers removed an estimated 2,000 pounds of litter from the French and Pickering Creeks during three clean-up events this year. Our hard-working volunteers also removed invasive plants and maintained community open space trails.

Since 2010:

We have mobilized over 1,000 volunteers through our Watershed Restoration program.

Nearly 7,500 trees and shrubs have been planted along streams in the French Creek, Pickering Creek, and Valley Creek watersheds - reforesting over 8,000 linear feet of streambanks!

Over 6,500 pounds of litter have been removed from the French and Pickering Creeks by our volunteers!
Accomplishments

Advanced Assessment Capabilities
Green Valleys has improved our ability to assess stream health and prioritize watershed protective action using GIS modeling software and “green” lab analytical methods. Computer modeling, augmented with data from stream samples collected at over 30 sites, allows us to quantify water quality impairments; simulate restoration scenarios; and create an accurate, overall picture of our watersheds’ health. We developed and are utilizing the following tools to increase our efficiency and impact:

Full-resolution Stream Mapping & Land Cover Analysis. We have developed accurate GIS representations of all perennial streams in the French, Pickering, Pigeon, Hay, and Sixpenny Creeks - including the small headwaters streams that are often missing from other GIS stream networks. Pairing these networks with current land use information helps us pinpoint high-priority conservation areas & the sources of potential stressors, as well as evaluate streamside habitat condition.

High-resolution Hydrological Modeling. Simulating stream flow across entire watersheds allows us to develop predictive models for sediments and other stressors during both low-flow (i.e., during summer or drought conditions) & storm conditions. We calibrate these models for accuracy using the results of our water quality sampling.

“Green” Lab Analytical Methods. Conventional laboratory analytical methods that utilize corrosive and/or heavy metal materials, and can generate hazardous waste products. Our in-house water quality monitoring lab uses methods that don’t require the use of these materials.

Schuylkill Water Stewards (SWS) Volunteers
With our Delaware River Watershed Initiative partners, we have trained 40 volunteers in the Schuylkill Water Stewards program who participate in quarterly sampling to collect water quality data. Additional volunteer opportunities can include stream clean-ups and other restoration activities.

Get involved in your watershed!
Join the Spring 2017 Schuylkill Water Stewards class and learn about issues facing local streams.

The training program begins Saturday, March 18, and will prepare you to monitor the impacts of issues specific to our watersheds, through hands-on learning that maximizes time spent along the stream. After completing five Saturday classes in March and April, Schuylkill Water Stewards participate in quarterly sampling to collect water quality data. Additional volunteer opportunities can include stream clean-ups and other restoration activities.

The deadline to register is March 8. Learn more about the program and sign up at schuylkillwaterstewards.org.

Photogrammetry
Thanks to photogrammetry, we can monitor streambank erosion at several areas of interest by creating precise, 3-D models of each site, and measuring changes over time. Photogrammetry software assembles highly accurate photographic models using the GPS coordinates of a series of photographs; comparing streambank measurements in these models over time allows us to track erosion with a high degree of accuracy.

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Warning to the landowners who generously open their streamside properties to our water quality monitoring teams! We are grateful for your support in allowing us to collect important water quality data from the streams in your backyards.

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Accomplishments
Expanding School & Family Nature Programs
After School Environmental Clubs
Since Fall 2015, our After School Environmental Science and Nature Awareness Clubs have served nearly 200 students at schools in the Owen J. Roberts, Phoenixville, and Pottstown School Districts. Two more Pottstown schools participated in the program this year, and program staff for the elementary-level clubs increased to include volunteer, high school student assistants. The clubs promote awareness and stewardship of the natural environment to elementary and middle school students, through outdoor activities and wildlife study.

Little Sprouts Library Nature Classes
These preschool programs expanded to the Chester Springs Library in 2015, and now serve over 200 children and their parents each year.

Community Nature Awareness Programs at Welkinweir
A new wildlife study and conservation program was introduced at Welkinweir this spring: Up Close with Birds of Prey features live hawks and owls, followed by a bird watching walk through the nature preserve. Two new dates were added to meet popular demand for our annual Owl Prowl. Over 100 participants came out to learn about owls’ unique survival adaptations; meet live, captive owls; and listen for owls in the wild in Welkinweir’s natural areas.

Summer Nature Day Camp is Growing
236 children from over 140 families attended Camp in 2016 - a two-year high for attendance!

Summer Nature Camp Scholarship Fund
The Fund received a record $2,179 in donations in 2016, which enabled us to award scholarships to 12 children. The purpose of the fund is to provide access to Camp to children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend.

New Grant Funding
• The Phoenixville Community Health Foundation provided a Health Education Mini-Grant towards Little Sprouts Library Nature Classes at the Phoenixville Public Library.
• Two new grants - a 2-year, $12,000 grant from the Clanel Foundation and a $1,200 grant from the Society of Women Environmental Professionals of Greater Philadelphia - supported this year’s After School Environmental Clubs.

The following generous individuals donated programming supplies for our education programs:

Dr. Elaine Husted
Janet & Mike Tillou
The Cody Family
Ed Fitzsimmons
Peter Van Bennekom
Christine Gephart
Phil Witman
Thank you!
Facilities for weddings.

To the woodworking talents of Justin Cannon. The circa-1928 replica the appearance of the original architecture, thanks.

We are the Historical and Museum Commission’s Keystone Preservation Historic Preservation’s Louis Appell Fund, the Pennsylvania Historic Restoration & Capital Improvements

with observations from our weekend bird walks to create a software. Staff analyzes the sound models to locate bird song which are then modeled according to frequency by computer network atop our kiosk). The recorders capture nearby sounds below (the photo show one of the solar panels powering the network atop our kiosk). The recorders capture nearby sounds which are then modeled according to frequency by computer software. Staff analyzes the sound models to locate bird song and identify the species recorded. This data will be combined with observations from our weekend bird walks to create a more complete picture of Welkinweir’s biodiversity.

**Volunteers & Interns**

Nearly 100 interns representing 10 public gardens and arboreta around the Philadelphia region contributed their time and effort to improve the gardens and natural areas at Welkinweir this summer. In addition to tending garden beds and removing invasive plants, they helped us to recover one of the Rodebaugh’s original gardens across the pond from the spring house! Their hard work was part of the Regional Intern Outreach Day, organized by members of the American Public Gardens Association. We are grateful to our APGA partners for their help in organizing the day, and for the hard work of their staff and interns. Together with our own interns, volunteers, and staff, they were instrumental in maintaining the arboretum’s collections and improving habitat.

**Bioacoustic Network in Development**

We are piloting studies to expand our knowledge of migratory birds at Welkinweir, by combining citizen science and bioacoustics, or the study of sounds made by living creatures. The next step in monitoring migratory birds is science and bioacoustics, or the study of sounds made by living creatures. The next step in monitoring migratory birds is science and bioacoustics, or the study of sounds made by living creatures. The next step in monitoring migratory birds is science and bioacoustics, or the study of sounds made by living creatures. The next step in monitoring migratory birds is science and bioacoustics, or the study of sounds made by living creatures.

**Accomplishments**

Historic Restoration & Capital Improvements

Thanks to generous funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Louis Appell Fund, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Keystone Preservation Fund, and The Historical Organ Trust, several critical restorations are nearing completion. The roof of the estate house has been replaced with durable, environmentally friendly material, and new railing will be installed that will replicate the appearance of the original architecture, thanks to the woodworking talents of Justin Cannon. The circa-1928 Skinner pipe organ is in the final stages of restoration, and we are working with Jeffrey A. Miller Catering to update the facilities for weddings.

**Support**

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies whose contributions enable GWVA to pursue our Mission:

$1,000 and Above:
- Anonymous Foundation
- The Chanell Foundation
- The Frederick J. Cooper Organ Restoration Fund
- Janssen Biotech, Inc.
- Carl & Sylvia Landis
- The George & Miriam Martin Foundation
- The Historical Organ Trust
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Lawrence & Harriett Stone
- USDA-NRCS
- William Penn Foundation

$5,000 and Above:
- PA DCNR/Natural Lands Trust
- Schuylkill Highlands CLT
- Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
- S partnership with the University of
- The Vanguard Foundation

$500 and Above:
- Paul & Cynthia Black
- Ray Cannon
- French & Pickering Creek Conservancy
- Conservation Trust
- John Funk & Elaine FitzSimons
- Benjamin James & Joan Baker
- Peter & Elaine Klose
- Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust
- Sara Shick
- Stan & Carol Stubbe

$250 and Above:
- Caroline W. Amidon
- Barry & Theresa Bentley
- James Berg & Donna Brennan
- Kimberly Billesbach
- Chester County Library System
- Clifton Larson Allen LLP
- Cary Ann & Stephen Cooper
- Fred & Debbie Eddinger
- John P. & Mary Ellen Eldridge
- F.A. Bartlett Tree Experts
- GreenWeaver Landscapes, LLC
- Vincent & Donna Hartnett
- L. Steckel & Eleanor Blowey
- Joseph & Diana Kelly
- Aldo & Anna Magazzeni
- Matchwood Dental Associates
- John Matthews & Nancy Bartley
- Natalie Mess-Edwards
- Arthur P. & Marjorie L. Miller
- Denny & Lyssa Montesorto
- Christopher Orzechowski
- Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc.
- John Quinlan
- Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr.
- Gary Ruggles
- Charles & Barbara Spackman
- Ray & Allyson Stegmaier
- Stell Environmental, Inc.
- Glenn & Nancy Wenger
- Dr. Ruthven & Nancy Wollin

$100 and Above:
- June & Bruce Allred
- Frank & Destree Alaire
- Harry B. & Susannah Archinal
- Chris & Sally Barron
- Reinhold & Diana Bender
- Peter & Helma Benson
- Thomas & Kristen Bissing
- David & Mary Blay
- Scott & Adrienne Boyance
- Richard & Mary Brigandi
- Lee & Pat Callahan
- Carnevale Rustin Architects

Chester County Friends of Art
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- Kell & Kate Damasgard
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- Bradley & Ann Dyer
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- John W. & Connie Erbe
- Chip & Kate Farnham
- Frank B. & Terry Foster
- Mark W. & Hope Foster
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- John & Amy Lignelli
- Don & Joan McWilliams
- Robert L. & Joanne Moser
- Gary & Anne Murphy
- Glenn & Galen Neister
- Derek J. Ottinger
- Allan & Linda Pallay
- Penn Liberty Bank
- Zoe Perkins
- The Pfizer Foundation
- Ron & Debbie Pook
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- Thomas A. Reves
- Robin Rebb
- Anna Sasso
- Harry L. Saunders
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- Deborah & Mark Shroyer
- Siana Belbasos & McAndrews LLP
- Jack J. & Barbara Sosik
- Gary & Karie Spohn
- Daane & Colleen Stanson
- David & Claudia Steckel
- Brian & Kathy Taylor
- Theuxkauf Design & Planning
- Minnie Toland

$500 and Above:
- Ed Bacon & Jane Nadelson
- First Niagara Financial Group
- George Graham & Suzanne Roth
- Darrell S. Guest
- The H.O. West Foundation
- Johnson & Johnson
- Kate Stetek Memorial Foundation
- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
- National Park Service
- Phoenixville Area School District
- Phoenixville Community Health Foundation
- Dr. Gary Ruggles

The Philadelphia Unit of the Herb Society of America
- The Portstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation
- The Society of Women Environmental Professionals of Greater Philadelphia
- Valley Creek Trustee Council
- West Vincent Township
- XL Capital
- David & Cherie Zelinger

The Vanguard Foundation
- Richard & Maria Dalton
- Kell & Kate Damasgard
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- Bradley & Ann Dyer
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Donald A. & Sharon Trevor
- Twin Valley Garden Club
- Linda & Floyd Walters
- Robert E. & Marlee Ward
- Chris & Pat Washburn
- Robert Washburn
- Su-san & Ted Weicheld
- Larry & Debbie Westfall
- Dawn White
- Cathar Whitley
- Penelope Wilson
- Jeff Wynn & Linda Condy

American Public Gardens Assoc.
- Audubon Pennsylvania
- Cadent Group
- Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
- Chester County Conservation District
- Chester County Water Resources Authority
- The Community Courier
- Cub Scouts Pack 104
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- Girl Scout Troops 743, 4026, 4082, 4439, 4510, 7071, 7287, 7411, 41035 & 41462
- Great Valley Nature Center
- Greater Philadelphia Gardens
- Immaculata University
- Jeffrey A. Miller Catering
- Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
- Link Davis
- The Party Center
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Owen J. Roberts School District
- PennFuture
- Penn State University Great Valley
- Phoenixville Green Team
- Pottstown School District
- PennFuture
- Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area
- Sean O’Donnell & Associates
- Siemens
- Stroud Water Research Center
- Tredyffrin Township EAC
- Upper Providence Elementary
- Valley Forge Audubon Society
- Valley Forge Tour Undiscovered
- West Pikeland Park & Recreation
- Willistown Conservation Trust

We sincerely apologize if your name was not listed here!
Board of Directors

**Officers**

**President**
Allen Heist, Project Manager, Stell Environmental Enterprise (ret.)
Volunteer Affiliation: Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy

**Vice President & Secretary**
Christopher Orzechowski, Geologist, Keating Environmental Management
Volunteer Affiliation: Political Committee Leader

**Treasurer**
Don Hans, Director of Commercial Banking, National Penn Bank
Volunteer Affiliation: St. Peter’s Episcopal Church Stewardship Committee

**Ex Officio**
Ed Bacon, Software Programmer, Vanguard (ret.)
Volunteer Affiliation: East Nantmeal Planning Commission

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GVA

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James McQuillan, Director, Healthcare Analytics, Siemens Delaware Valley Children’s Charity

Carl Landis, Certified Financial Planner, Main Line Financial Advisors Pottstown SCORE Chapter 594

Marjorie Miller, Partner, Bylines Editorial Services (ret.) American Red Cross Retiree Association

**Past Board Members (2010-2016)**

Caryl Ann Cooper, Debbie Eddinger, John Eldridge, Mark Eshbacher, Elaine FitzSimons

John Funk, Whitney Graham, Jim Kerr, Richard Koster, Rob Kratz

John Matthews, Lawrence Newman, Jo-an Rechin, Harriet Stone, David Zelinger

**Volunteers**


**Fiscal Year Ending September 30**

**Organizational Capacity**

Green Valleys Watershed Association has made significant growth over the past several years. The support we receive from foundations, government programs, businesses, and our dedicated and passionate members throughout the community is gratefully accepted and wisely used, to maximize the impact of our programs throughout the community.

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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.

Please join us!
Your membership is an investment in clean water and healthy watersheds, for now and for future generations.

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

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
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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: ________________________________

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.