

Monthly news & updates



January 2021

Upcoming Events:

2021 Annual Meeting

Virtual Meeting

Saturday, January 30, 2021

9:00AM - 12:30PM

At this meeting, we will provide reports on the board's accomplishments over the past year and vote on directors at the meeting. If you are interested in running for a position



37th Annual Watershed Wide Cleanup

on the board, please contact president@dcva.org in writing by January 24th. We will also take nominations for election of directors from the floor at the meeting.

We will have presentations from Delaware County new Environmental Crime Unit District Attorney , Melissa Muroff.

[click here to register](#)

Rain Garden Zoom Workshop

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2021

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Learn how to beautify your property, community and be environmentally friendly.

Rain gardens are a beautiful addition to your property and can help improve water quality in your community. Workshop attendees will learn about the problems associated with uncontrolled stormwater runoff, what a rain garden is, how to construct & maintain a rain garden on your property, how a rain garden can improve water quality in your community and general watershed-friendly landscaping techniques.

[click here to register](#)

We are excited to announce that we're in the planning stages for our annual clean up day taking place on Saturday, April 10th. There will be numerous sites throughout our watershed, some of our regular sites and some brand new locations.

We are looking for volunteers to help organize sites and to come out the day of to help. If there is a location that you know of that is in need of attention AND you are willing to lead that clean up effort, contact suedcva@gmail.com.

Check our **Watershed Cleanups** webpage and sign up for a clean up near you. Be sure to check back as sites are being added daily as we get confirmation.

Read more



DCVA Partners with Izaak Walton League

Salt Watch



Volunteers are needed to test chloride levels in local streams and submit their data to our friends at the Izaak Walton League. The first step is to **sign up for your free chloride test kit** immediately, so it can arrive before the next significant winter weather event.

Get your test Kit!!

While waiting for your kit to arrive you can check out this **5 minute video** explaining how to take a chloride reading and this **3 minute video** about how to easily submit your results.

Want to do even more?

Visit our **Citizen Science/Stream Keepers page**, for more video's and ways you can help.

Lastly, THANK YOU for helping preserve and protect our watershed - we could not do it without the support of our community!

Road and sidewalk salt -- too much of a good thing?

With the onset of colder weather, the Izaak Walton League and local conservation groups are launching a new year of the Salt Watch program in the Philadelphia region.

While road salt (sodium chloride) helps keep roads and sidewalks safe during icy weather, too much salt harms streams and water quality. The Salt Watch program uses volunteers to monitor levels of salt pollution in local waterways.

Philadelphia groups that are part of of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative have been vital partners in the Salt Watch program, helping to refine this volunteer-based citizen science program. This year, the Izaak Walton League will distribute thousands of salt monitoring kits in Pennsylvania and more than a dozen other states.

"This region has a lot of road surfaces that get treated for ice so we need to keep an eye on salt pollution in our streams and collect data every year," says Emily Bialowas who runs the Winter Salt Watch program at the Izaak Walton League. "We're very grateful for our local Winter Salt Watch volunteers and partners who make this happen."

"This is an easy, quick and free way to test your stream for this type of pollution. Excessive salt harms wildlife and human health, which is why we carefully monitor local salt levels and advocate for more efficient use of salt on roads and sidewalks by transportation authorities and property owners."

Philadelphia Results from Last Winter

Last winter, 2019-20, the Izaak Walton League distributed test kits to about 1,000

volunteers who documented salt levels in streams across more than dozen states.

Help support our efforts
Become a member today



Of 81 Salt Watch results submitted from the Philadelphia Metro Region last winter:

- 37 percent yielded high readings (over 100 ppm)
- Of the high readings, 20 percent were at toxic levels (over 230 ppm)

Ideally, freshwater lakes and streams should have low to no salt content. Levels above 100 parts per million (ppm) exceed naturally occurring concentrations of salt. According to the EPA, concentrations above 230 ppm are toxic to aquatic life with prolonged exposure. Excess salt in drinking water can be a problem for people with high blood pressure and other health conditions that require a low-sodium diet.

The 2019-2020 results for Philadelphia were particularly alarming since the winter was mild with very few winter-weather events. This suggests that road salt pollution has staying power and can harm aquatic life and drinking water for years after the salt hits the road. It also suggests that smarter salt application could make a big difference.