



April 17, 2009

## Time to tidy up for Earth Day

Cleanup efforts around Delaware look for volunteers this weekend

By *KATIE ROGERS*  
*The News Journal*

There will be plenty of ways to go green this weekend and help beautify Delaware in commemoration of Earth Day.

The 18th annual Christina River Watershed Cleanup will be Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. As one of the state's largest waterways, the Christina River Basin helps supply drinking water to nearly half a million people in Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Shirley Posey, who has been the cleanup's volunteer coordinator for 15 years, said this Earth Day staple is far from obsolete even though volunteers have been collecting less trash each year.

"We are seeing results from what we set out to do each year," Posey said. "But we still have a long way to go."

During last year's cleanup, volunteers collected 16 tons of trash, or the equivalent of 53 Dumpsters, she said.

However, the number of volunteers who have signed up this year is significantly smaller. So far, 450 people have signed up. Typically, there are close to 700 volunteers each year, she said.

"Keeping the river healthy is better for the environment, and for the people," she said. "We are trying to restore the river, and get its health back to the state it should be in. If people can give us just a couple of hours, they can help clean up the environment."

Volunteers also can pitch in at sites near White Clay and Red Clay creeks and other tributaries. To volunteer, sign up at [www.ChristinaRiverCleanup.org](http://www.ChristinaRiverCleanup.org), or contact Posey at 838-1897.

Other opportunities:

- Brandywine's 16th Annual River Cleanup, sponsored by Young Friends of the Brandywine, will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will meet and register in the parking lot of the Brandywine River Museum in Chadd's Ford, Pa. Lunch will be provided by Buckley's Tavern. For more information, contact Kathy Freney Smith at (610) 388-8315 or [ksmith@brandywine.org](mailto:ksmith@brandywine.org), or visit [www.youngfriends.org](http://www.youngfriends.org).
- Boy Scouts, The Delaware Nature Conservancy and community volunteers from the Del-Mar-Va

Council also will help celebrate Earth Day Saturday by planting 1,000 native white oak trees. The event, sponsored by **ERTHNXT**, will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Milford Neck Preserve in Kent County. The preserve, which is being restored under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Delaware Bay Estuary Project, is the only remaining forested area greater than 1,000 acres on the Delaware coast. For more information, contact John Graham at 584-5680.

- Newark's Community Cleanup, sponsored by the city of Newark, will be 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, at the Newark Municipal Building. The first 200 volunteers to register will receive a free T-shirt. For more information call 366-7060.

- State residents can also recycle old tires at the Scrap Tire Drop-off on Saturday at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., residents can drop off up to 10 passenger car or light duty truck tires per household. Proof of residency is required, and larger tires, tires on rims or bicycle tires will not be accepted. For more information, visit the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Web site at [www.awm.delaware.gov/Info/Pages/ScrapTire.aspx](http://www.awm.delaware.gov/Info/Pages/ScrapTire.aspx) or call the Scrap Tire Control and Cleanup Program at 739-9403.

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