

# CONSERVATION CONNECTION



CLEARWATERCONSERVANCY.ORG

FALL 2010

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## SPECIAL EVENT

### For the Love of Art & Chocolate

Friday, January 28, 2011  
The Penn Stater  
7 - 10 pm  
valet parking



Come join ClearWater for an evening of jazz, art, and best of all... all the chocolate you care to eat! For a ticket price of just \$30, you'll get an impressive assortment of chocolate delicacies, the opportunity to view and bid on a variety of art works inspired by nature by talented local artists, and the chance to win some fabulous door prizes. Come early for the best chocolate selection!

To learn more visit [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/chocolate.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/chocolate.htm) or please contact Jennifer at [jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org) or (814) 237-0400.

## Dam Removals Open Two Headwater Streams to Native Trout

**W**hile dams can serve important purposes, dams that are no longer needed can become liabilities instead of assets. During the summer and fall of 2010, ClearWater Conservancy managed the removal of two dams—the Dayton Dam in Moshannon State Forest and the Musser Gap dam in Rothrock State Forest. Both projects are expected to expand the accessible range of native brook trout and other ecologically important species and, at the same time, provide aesthetic and safety benefits.

“By removing these dams, we were able to restore the natural contours of the streams and improve the habitat for native brook trout,” says ClearWater’s Katie Ombalski. “Both dam removals eliminated points that disconnected sections of the stream, expanding the range of available water for the brook trout.” At the Moshannon site, isolated populations of brook trout and of non-game fish have been reconnected, which improves the overall health and viability of these fish populations.

The Dayton Dam on Sixmile Run in Moshannon State Forest was removed in June at a cost of about \$55,000, provided from a combination of a Growing Greener grant, mitigation funds from PennDOT, and part of a ClearWater “Bring Back the Natives” grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The dam was originally built for recreational purposes by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. The two acre impoundment behind a five foot wall no longer served any functional purpose.

“We are not out there to remove every dam, because many of them still serve a useful function,” says Dave Christine of the PA Fish and Boat Commission. “There is a lot of benefit, though, to removing dams that are no longer useful.” Although there was an attempt to refurbish the dam in the 1970s, it had again fallen into disrepair and was badly deteriorated. In addition to the environmental benefits of habitat restoration and increased connectivity that allows the return of the natural ecology, Christine points out that degraded dams present a hazard to public safety and potential liability to their owners.



Contractors from Aquatic Resource Restoration Company removing rubble from the Musser Gap site on day two of the dam removal and restoration project.

Photo Courtesy of Centre Daily Times/Nabil K. Mark

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 For more information about dam removals or other parts of ClearWater’s Riparian Conservation Program, contact Katie at (814) 237-0400.



# What Does ClearWater Conservancy Mean To You?

2010 marks ClearWater's 30th year, and I suspect over the years sentiments about us have evolved. We also imagine that ClearWater means many different things to different people. In order to better gauge our members' understanding about our mission, and help us shape our agenda for the coming years, please look for a survey in early 2011. We hope to be undergoing an important strategic planning process next year and feel it is vital to learn what our members know about us and what you want us (along with your help, of course!) to be doing in the future.

Through his mother, I was fortunate to learn how Micah Feigelson feels about ClearWater. His family has a tradition about how allowance monies are used: one-third to savings, one-third to do with as he wishes, and one-third to a charity of his choice. For the past several years, Micah has directed his charitable giving to ClearWater Conservancy. Micah is now 17 and says when he first started giving, it was more abstract – simply related to the environment. Recently, he has given it some more thought and said he has come to realize that “you can't help the world unless you start small and local.” He is part of the environmental club at State College High School and really appreciates what ClearWater is doing to clean up our streams and protect them from being degraded. Along with his annual giving, Micah is also a member of ClearWater. While we don't know the ages of our members, I'm guessing he is one of our younger individual members, and I find his story very encouraging. We look forward to hearing more stories like Micah's as we enter our fourth decade as your local land trust.

We also know that to some of you, ClearWater means a very fun day of golf and merriment during our annual Otto's Golf-Fest! We could not have asked for nicer weather in late August, and we also could not have asked for a nicer outcome. Thanks to all of our sponsors, golfers and volunteers, this year's Otto's Golf-Fest broke a record! We raised \$45,000 to help us advance our mission. In the mid-fall, ClearWater has also come to mean a special day for all at our Spring Creek Family Festival. This event is a wonderful partnership with many like-minded groups. Parents and children get to enjoy hands-on nature activities at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Thank you to our many partners and terrific volunteers for making that day such a success! And, since I co-chair this upcoming event, I know that for some of you, ClearWater means a night of delicious desserts and gorgeous art inspired by nature. Our 12th “For the Love of Art and Chocolate” will take place the evening of Friday January 28, 2011. Tickets are on sale now and make great holiday gifts for friends, family or co-workers!

Kelleann Foster  
President, ClearWater Conservancy



## CLEARWATER Conservancy

### OUR MISSION

The mission of the ClearWater Conservancy is to promote conservation and restoration of natural resources in central Pennsylvania through land conservation, water resources protection, and environmental outreach to the community.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kelleann Foster, *President*  
Melinda Turner, *1st Vice President*  
Chris Magent, *2nd Vice President*  
Patrick Morse, *Treasurer*  
Ford Stryker, *Secretary*

Michael Allen, Joe Bishop, Dan Crust, Robert Donaldson, Rebecca Dunlap, Barbara Fisher, William James, Holly May, Jim Mick McKay, Steve Miller, James Mac Rayback, Dave Sweetland, Andrew Warner

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Bob Carline, Walter Ebaugh, Caren Glotfelty, Don Hamer, George Hildenbrandt, Jim McClure, Brian McCullough, Jeff Sturniolo, Doug Wion, John Ziegler

### STAFF

Jennifer Shuey, *Executive Director*  
Sarah Edge, *Office Manager*  
Katie Ombalski, *Conservation Biologist*  
Bill Hilshey, *Conservation Easement Manager*  
Brianna Hutchison, *Water Resources Coordinator*

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Elliot & Bonnie Abrams, Sylvia Apple, Joe Banks, George Beatty, Kristen Saacke & Joel Blunk, Rob & Rebecca Brooks, Gary Brown, Ron Buckalew, John & Joan Chernega, Jeff & Tish Derr, Thomas & Jane Derr, Walt & Michele Ebaugh, Robert & Jeannette Eberhart, John & Barbara Fisher, Bob Griffith, Bob & Lee Gruver, Don Hamer, Gerry Lynn Hamilton & Deborah Benedetti, Ernest Hawk, Larry & Bonnie Hutchinson, Margaret Kendall, Diane Kerly, Elizabeth & Henry Kirchner, Fred Kissinger, Chris Magent & April Detar, Jim McClure, Jack Moore, Fred Nicholas, Heidi Nicholas & Bruce Fleischer, Ray Noll Jr., Zachary Richards, Genie Robine, David & Margaret Rockenbeck, Daniel Sahakian, Pete & Carol Schempf, Thomazine Shanahan, Roxanne & Andy Shiels, Bob & Lovella Shipman, Chris & Jennifer Shuey, Tom Smyth, Tom & Sara Songer, Robert & Barbara Sorisio, Delores Taricani, Kathy & Ty Taylor, Fred & Joann Thompson, Philip & Virginia Walker, Donald & Diana Watson, Paul & Darlene Weener, Jerry & Jane Wettstone, John & Jane Ziegler, Denny & Karen Zwigart

*Printed on recycled paper.*

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## Twelve Buffer Projects in the Works this Season

**C**learWater's latest grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation is allowing us to continue to expand our highly successful Riparian Conservation Program and leverage strong and fruitful partnerships with other conservation organizations in the Spring, Spruce, and Little Fishing Creek Watersheds.

We received \$150,000 to manage and coordinate projects in the three watersheds that are associated with our Nittany Valley Conservation Action Plan for 2010 and 2011. Our primary restoration role in these projects is installation of the riparian buffer plantings.

Other partners offer their considerable skills and other sources of funding for tasks such as streambank fencing installation, in-stream habitat structure design, permitting and installation, and agricultural best management practices design and installation.

Partners include the PA Department of Environmental Protection, the Centre County Conservation District, the US Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the Foundation for the California University of Pennsylvania, the Foundation for PA Watersheds, University Area Joint Authority, Centre Region Parks & Recreation, and the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

In the Spring Creek Watershed, ClearWater is overseeing riparian buffer plantings at Spring Creek Park, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, and the Maehr property. Spruce Creek

project sites include the Standing Ovation Horse Farm and the Gray, Bush, and Mellott properties. Buffer projects on the Vonada, Deitrich, and Stolfus farms are located in Little Fishing Creek Watershed.

The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant also includes funding to continue our treatment of invasive Japanese Knotweed in the Cedar Run sub-watershed of Spring Creek. Knotweed is an invasive species that establishes along stream banks and roadsides. This noxious weed is a significant threat to riparian ecosystems because it forms dense thickets that crowd out native vegetation.

With the help of volunteer knotweed "spotters," ClearWater has mapped the locations of knotweed throughout the Cedar Run watershed. The continued treatment of knotweed is credited to a ClearWater partnership with over thirty private and public landowners who allow spot treatments of knotweed every year.

The presence and health of the knotweed spot-treated this year will be assessed in the summer of 2011, and the plants will be retreated if needed.



Japanese Knotweed growing along Spring Creek.

Photo By Sarah Knorr

## ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

### Staff Transitions in Outreach and Water Resources Programs at ClearWater

## Goodbye Ieva Perkons and Brianna Hutchison

ClearWater Conservancy is blessed with a talented and professional staff, who carry out the Board of Directors' vision and mission. But sometimes we have to say goodbye and open ourselves up to new possibilities.

When the curtain came down on this year's Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Ieva Perkons' time on the ClearWater staff also came to a close. Ieva has served for the past year-and-a-half as our part-time Outreach and Event Coordinator, working also on projects such as the Strides for Nature 6K, Adventures in Conservation, the Spring Creek Family Festival, and the ClearWater Ambassador Team of volunteers who represent us with our booth at community events. We wish Ieva all the best as she steps back into a volunteer role at ClearWater Conservancy so she can devote more time to her family.

We are also bidding Brianna Hutchison farewell. Brianna recently accepted a position at the Susquehanna River Basin Commission that will allow her to

delve deeper into her passion for and her education in aquatic biology. For nearly two years as ClearWater's Water Resources Coordinator, Brianna has staffed the Spring Creek Water Resources Monitoring Project and Watershed Cleanup Day, and has also overseen the development of the Spring Creek Watershed Map and Guide and the new Watershed Cleanup Day educational video. We wish Brianna great success on her career path.

As the Board of Directors undertakes this year's budget cycle and their upcoming winter strategic planning sessions, they are looking at new and creative ways to possibly restructure these positions to most effectively carry out the organization's priorities.

We are hoping especially to be able to increase the Outreach position's hours to allow Jennifer to pass off some outreach tasks to free up more of her time for fundraising for both general operating support and specific projects.



## HELPING HANDS: *Everyone Working Together*

**Katie Mann** for organizing the Raptor Migration in Central PA Adventures in Conservation talk on November 2;

**Greg Grove** and **Nick Bolgiano** for giving a great presentation; **Lyn Gerace** for the cookies, and the **Centre Co. Historical Society** for hosting the event.

For the many volunteers involved in this year's **United Way Day of Caring** projects at ClearWater. At the Thompson Woods Preserve planting: **Lara Kauffman** for the planting design and **Landscape II** for planting assistance; **Carolyn Mahan** for site volunteer coordination; the **PSU College of Health & Human Development** volunteers led by **Scott Barbara** for planting and trash pick-up; **College Township** for site prep and the plants; and **Centre Region Parks & Recreation** for equipment, watering, and the truck for trash pick-up. At the ClearWater office Japanese Knotweed removal site: Master Gardener **Terry Melton** for supervising and volunteer pruners from the **Morgan Academic Support Center** led by **Todd Kulka**.

**Pat & Suzy Morse, Mick & Joyce McKay, Melinda Turner, Scot & Charlene Chambers, Bill Sharpe, Barbara Fisher, Alex Young, Holly May, Kelleann Foster, Bob Eberhart, and Diana Dunn** for staffing ClearWater's event booth this summer.

**Jason Albright** of DCNR for co-managing the Musser Gap dam removal and the **Homan, Sorisio, McWilliams, and Jodon families** for their participation and patience during the dam removal process. Also to **Josh Lincoln** of WHM, Inc. for in-kind technical assistance.

## KUDOS

**Appalachian Outdoors, Patagonia, West Arete Computing, Nittany Geothermal, Tussey**

**Mountain Outfitters, Rowland Creative, Centre County Dog Training, and Webster's** for sponsoring the Wild & Scenic Film Festival.

**Mark Belden** and his **PSU Master Fly-Fishing class** for providing buffer maintenance and **College Township** for providing mulch for the College Township Building riparian buffer.

**Jerry Sawyer** for creating the new Watershed Cleanup Day educational video and **Jennifer Chesworth, Bill Sharp, and Steve Miller** for writing articles for us.

**Bob Merrill & Stacey Flick** of DCNR and **Josh Lincoln** of WHM, Inc. for their help with Dayton Dam.

**Bob Carline** for his many years chairing the Spring Creek Water Resources Monitoring Project and **Rick Wardrop** for taking on the leadership of this project as the next volunteer chair. Also to volunteers helping during the staff transition in the Water Resource Monitoring Project: **Mick & Joyce McKay, Steve Lupis, Ed Jeffries, Genie Robine, and Peter Scorzetti**.

**Joe Bishop, Ford Stryker, Roger Garthwaite, Laurene Keck, Cate Twohill, Bill James, and Holly May** for organizing another fun and successful Otto's Golf-Fest! Also to the many volunteers on the course and at registration throughout the day.

PFBC staff, especially **Dave Keller**, and volunteers who helped with the TU Spring Creek restoration projects.

## WELCOME

**New Members from April 16 - November 3**

**Paul Knight  
Kathleen Domenig  
Vicki Carter  
Rebecca Fair  
Eric & Dana Hampton  
Art Kempf  
Irene Schaperdoth & Klaus Keller  
Girts & Barbara Perkons  
George Polycranos  
Kelsey Taylor  
Bill Wolfe  
Andrea Seeley  
David Grove  
Jack Sell  
Phil & Rose Park**

## BUY THE BOOK

**Fly Fishing Pennsylvania's Spring Creek**, by Daniel L. Shields is available for purchase at ClearWater Conservancy for \$15 to support land and water conservation.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

**VOLUNTEER NEEDS** If interested, ask Jen for additional details.

- + A volunteer to be ClearWater's representative on the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Northcentral Regional Citizens' Roundtable. Quarterly meetings, usually in Williamsport.
- + ClearWater is a nominating organization for the Centre County Conservation District. This year the CCCD is seeking nominations for a Farmer Director. Monthly Board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. See Jen for the nomination application.
- + One or two volunteers with pick up trucks to haul piles of Japanese Knotweed from the ClearWater office to the Glenn O. Hawbaker State College Recycling Center a half mile up the road at 2145 North Atherton Street.



Day of Caring volunteers plant native shrubs at Thompson Woods Preserve.

## WISH LIST

As a non-profit organization, ClearWater Conservancy always has needs. They range from big to little. Can you pick off one or two? Or part of a big need? Our current specific needs include, but are not limited to:

- + Donors interested in underwriting the printing of our upcoming *Recreational Trail & History Map of Scotia Barrens* through advertising - \$11,000 total need
- + Funding for the new parking and trail head area at the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor near Stormstown - \$1,200
- + A new laser fax machine for the office - \$400
- + Donations for our *Connections* program. \$250 sponsors one classroom's bus and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center fees.
- + \$10 or \$25 Grocery store, WalMart, or Office Depot gift cards to offset office and event expenses

# Three New Directors Join the Board

**A**t ClearWater Conservancy's Annual Meeting on November 16, our members and leaders will continue to celebrate our 30th Anniversary, an important milestone in our organization's history. Festivities include dinner, the debut showing of our new educational Watershed Cleanup Day video, our annual Community Conservation Commendation, and the presentation of our annual Don Hamer Leadership Award and Barbara Fisher Volunteer of the Year Award.

Just prior to the dinner, members will meet in a business session to elect our 2011 Board of Directors. Several candidates are up for re-election this year to three-year terms, including Rebecca Dunlap, Holly May, Ford Stryker, and Pat Morse. Their bios may be seen at [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/events.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/events.htm).

In addition, three new new directors have been nominated for Board service. Jim Grace, Kathleen Yurchak, and Lou Mayer are welcomed into leadership at ClearWater Conservancy with great anticipation. Their bios are included below.

Many thanks also go to retiring Directors James Mac Rayback and James Mick McKay for their hard work and valuable input.

## James R. Grace

James R. Grace was named to the Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources Conservation in August 2010. Housed within the School of Forest Resources at Penn State the purpose of the Goddard Chair is to provide leadership in sustainable natural resource conservation through programs of public service, education and scholarship.

Prior to his appointment Jim served a lengthy career in State Government. Most recently he was the Deputy Secretary for State Parks and Forestry within the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In that position, Grace was responsible for the direction of the Bureaus of State Parks and Forestry, as well as the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction. From 1994 to 2007 Jim served as the PA State Forester and the Director of the PA Bureau of Forestry.

Jim also served as a Deputy Secretary in Resources Management in the former PA Department of Environmental Resources from 1987 to 1993 and during that time he was also Pennsylvania's representative on the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basin Commissions and the Chesapeake Bay Commission. Earlier, Dr. Grace served on the faculty of the Department of Horticulture and Forestry at Rutgers University and he served as

**Bob Merrill & Tom Haines** of DCNR, **Spring Reilly, Jason Detar, Dave Christine, Karl Lutz, Dave Keller, & Ted Walke** of PFBC, **Bob Hazelton, Steve Walton, Sue Hannegan, Jackie Melander, Beth Rider, Bob Imhof, Joanne Kamo, and John Eastlake** for helping to develop interpretive panels for the Dayton Dam removal and Spring Creek restoration projects.

**Dave Deitrich, Dale Roth, Hugh Barnes, Bryce Boyer, Katie Mann, and Jim Julian** for donating plywood and helping with the amphibian study on our newly aquired Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor.

**Bob Donaldson, Helen Alters, Jackie Melander,** and the **PFBC** for helping to name PFBC public access sites along Spring Creek.

the Extension Program Coordinator within the School of Forest Resources at Penn State.

Jim is a native of New Britain, CT and he has degrees in forestry from The University of Vermont (B.S), Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (M.F.S.), and The Pennsylvania State University (PhD). He lives with his wife Roberta in Camp Hill.

## Kathleen V. Yurchak

Kathleen Yurchak is a partner in the local law firm of Goodall & Yurchak. Kathleen focuses her practice on litigation matters handling court cases dealing with employment law, zoning and municipal matters, contract cases, personal injury and first amendment media law.

She has been a regular speaker at local and national conferences on trial and evidence issues. She is a member of the Civil Litigation Section Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Kathleen graduated from the University of Denver School of Law where she was a member of the Environmental Law Review. She is a graduate of Bucknell University. Kathleen is actively involved in community matters and has represented local municipalities in matters relating to Open Space Preservation.

She lives in Park Hills with her husband Peter, her two boys, and her dog Stella.

## Louis H. Mayer

Louis H. Mayer has been chosen for the ClearWater Board of Directors by the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps (PaSEC), a committee of ClearWater Conservancy.

Louis worked as a technical sales representative and field applications engineer for Norton Company (St. Gobain Corporation) of Worcester, MA for 31 years before retiring in 2002. Norton Company is a manufacturer of Industrial Abrasives Products used primarily by the metal and woodworking industries.

He received his BS degree in Chemistry from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1968, then served three years in the US Navy before his employment by Norton Company. Lou has lived in State College since 1979 and has been active in PaSEC, the Penn State Master Gardeners, and the Centre County Historical Society. Lou's wife Susan is retired from teaching in the State College Area School District.

## KUDOS

**Joe Bishop** and **Mike Steingraber** of the PA Game Commission for helping with the Scotia Map and **Sue Hannegan** for assisting with a DCNR grant application.

**Kitty Patterson** of Graphics & Design and **Mike Hermann** of Purple Lizard Maps for donating graphic and mapping services for our Galbraith Gap Land Acquisition outreach materials.

**Jim Julian, Brad Ross, Jim Finley, Carolyn Mahan, & Art Gover** for technical assistance and services on the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor habitat management committee.

**Katie Mann, Bill Leech,** and **Peter Scorzett** for helping with Growing Native plantings at Musser Gap.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

### Annual State of the Water Resources Report Now Available for Spring Creek

The Water Resources Monitoring Project's 2009 State of the Water Resources Report is now available in print and online. The thematic topic of this year's report is "The Axemann Gage: Long-Term Water Resource Monitoring in the Spring Creek Watershed."

The United States Geological Survey has been monitoring stream flow and water quality at the Axemann gage for over 67 years. The report also highlights trends in stream flow, temperature, water quality, and groundwater elevation throughout the Spring Creek Watershed in 2009. Long-term data sets, like those from the Axemann Gage and the one being compiled by the Water Resources Monitoring Project, are invaluable in understanding how our water resources are changing. These data allow regional planners to make responsible land use decisions that are protective of the Spring Creek Watershed's precious resources.

View the report on ClearWater Conservancy's website at [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/2009StateofWaterResourcesReport.pdf](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/2009StateofWaterResourcesReport.pdf) or on the Spring Creek Watershed Association's website at [www.springcreekwatershed.org/water-monitoring-wrmp.html](http://www.springcreekwatershed.org/water-monitoring-wrmp.html).

### Garden Starters Volunteers Grew Vegetables, Pollinator Plants, and Knowledge

Garden Starters has completed its first growing season in the demonstration garden at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. We constructed and planted four raised bed gardens and throughout the summer planned and participated in several workshops and events.

Our tomato bed appears to have delighted the taste buds of Nature Center visitors. A path was worn in the grass between the pavilion and the gardens.



Garden Starters workshop participants get their hands dirty planting the first raised bed demonstration garden at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

The yellow pear and cherry tomatoes were abundant and delicious, and I did not find any rotting on the vine.

We'll plant them again next year. There were also peppers, eggplant, herbs, kale, broccoli and a nice head of cauliflower.

One bed-building workshop was dedicated to native plants and pollinators. A Monarch caterpillar was spotted on the milkweed

plant. The final bed was planted this fall with a cover crop to help restore the soil, and it has already yielded a beautiful green carpet of oats. The tomato bed was cleared and planted with winter rye.

Garden Starters was conceived just one year ago by a group of ClearWater volunteers and gardening friends. Our goal is to motivate people, especially families with children, to start growing some of their own food. Getting our hands in the soil is a marvelous way to gain a direct and intimate—almost spiritual—experience of our natural world. In the process, we learn how our food is grown and experience the joys of seeing the colorful vegetables, smelling the earth and herbs, feeling the warm soil and plants, and tasting the wonderful flavor of fresh foods.



Of greatest importance are the people. Another of our goals is to build a strong sense of community among gardeners. That takes some organizing up front, and special thanks are due Barbara Fisher, Jennifer Shuey and Bob Eberhart who provided enthusiastic support in starting and continuing this project. The ClearWater Board adopted the project, giving it a home. Molly Hetrick, through Centre Region Parks and Recreation, provided a beautiful spot for the garden at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Sarah Edge and Brianna Hutchison joined as volunteers, as did ClearWater intern Alexandra Young. Master Gardeners Coordinator Molly Sturniolo, Scott Pflumm, and other volunteers brought valuable expertise. We continue to meet many new friends and supporters at workshops and events.

The year started with a workshop on planning and building raised-bed gardens, attended by 27 people, followed by workshops featuring demonstrations on canning and building our own rain barrels, and a harvest dinner celebration, among other events. During the Spring Creek Family Festival at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center we had a steady stream of visitors all afternoon, many of whom indicated they were looking forward to starting their own gardens and attending workshops next year.

A Garden Starters class was given at OLLI, and we are now preparing for our final outdoor event of the season, the Historic Harvest Festival at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, where we plan to highlight a Pennsylvania tradition, the foursquare kitchen garden.

Our first year has left us with a feeling of accomplishment and an eagerness to get started on our gardens next spring. There will be planning sessions and public meetings over the winter months. Information about Garden Starters and scheduled events can be found on our Garden Starters Facebook page and also at [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/GardenStarters.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/GardenStarters.htm).

### ClearWater Debuts Watershed Cleanup Day Video

ClearWater will unveil an educational film about illegal dumping in Centre County and how we've been working to combat this problem through our annual Watershed Cleanup Day at this year's Annual Membership Meeting. Produced and scripted by Water Resources Coordinator Brianna Hutchison and directed, filmed, and edited by retired local media professional Jerry Sawyer, this 30-minute film highlights the project's unique partnerships and many achievements.

Improper disposal of trash is a huge problem in Pennsylvania, extending across municipal and county borders and affecting every citizen. Littering threatens the health and safety of humans and wildlife, decreases property values, attracts crime, ruins the aesthetics of a site, and costs taxpayers money. In addition to littering along roadways and on other public lands,

it is estimated that between 30 and 200 large scale illegal dump sites exist per county in Pennsylvania, some of which have been active for generations. A 2009 survey conducted by PA Cleanways – Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful uncovered 56 illegal dump sites in Centre County alone.

Through Watershed Cleanup Day, ClearWater Conservancy hopes to educate the citizens of Centre County about the consequences of illegal dumping and encourage their personal stewardship responsibility, as well as educate and involve municipal officials in the cleanup of illegal dumpsites. Our volunteers are working hard to remove all illegally dumped items from historical dumpsites in the county. Thanks to their efforts and those of the Centre County Solid Waste Authority and heavy equipment contractors like Glenn O. Hawbaker, Stone Valley Construction, HRI, and Ameron, we have removed and properly disposed of 2,738 tons of illegal trash through the Watershed Cleanup Project.

## LAND CONSERVATION

### Jennifer Kane Puts Finishing Touches on Fourth Painting in Commemorative Series

Raising funds for ClearWater Conservancy's Land Conservation Program is a labor of love for artist Jennifer Kane. For four years, she has been using her artistic talent to capture and share the natural beauty of a recently protected property. \$10 raffle tickets are sold for a chance to win the year's 40"x30"

original oil painting, valued at \$3,000.

This year Jennifer chose to paint a fall scene from ClearWater's newly purchased property in the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor. This was an exciting acquisition project for ClearWater staff. The wildlife corridor connected two important ecosystems that were priorities in our Nittany Valley Conservation Action Plan—the Scotia



Photo By Jennifer Shuey

Jennifer Kane captures the essence of the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor in her fourth oil painting commemorating ClearWater projects.

Barrens, which was becoming an island of habitat in the valley, and the Bald Eagle Ridge, a long linear forested greenway that marks the transition between the Ridge and Valley physiographic province and the Allegheny Front.

Raffle tickets for Jennifer's original oil painting of the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor are on sale now for \$10 each. Proceeds are used to protect more land in the coming year. The winner will be drawn at ClearWater's For the Love of Art & Chocolate event on Friday, January 28 at The Penn Stater.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Sarah at [sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org) or calling (814) 237-0400. Tickets may also be purchased at Jennifer's studio at the Surface Artist Cooperative, 201 Elmwood Street, near Lemont, online at [www.surfaceartistcoop.com](http://www.surfaceartistcoop.com) or by contacting Jennifer Kane at [conservation@jenniferkaneart.com](mailto:conservation@jenniferkaneart.com). Jennifer's work may be seen at [www.jenniferkaneart.com](http://www.jenniferkaneart.com).

### Active Management for the Wildlife Corridor

The Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor became a reality this past April when ClearWater Conservancy purchased the 38.7-acre parcel adjacent to State Game Land 176 in Halfmoon Township. An additional 63 acres of the wildlife corridor is now protected through a 99-year lease of development rights made possible through the Halfmoon Township Open Space Preservation Program. This is only the beginning. A management team, composed of volunteers and staff, is busy determining amphibian migration patterns and performing multi-season bird surveys. A portion of the property purchased by ClearWater Conservancy will be reforested and another portion will be maintained as grassland for birds. The team is now designing a parking area and hiking trails, with a connection to the gamelands. Greg Gorman, a fifth-year landscape architecture student, has created sketch plans giving us a vision of the wildlife corridor in the not too distant future.

The Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor was made possible by a grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, with grant support from the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office; Halfmoon Township Board of Supervisors and Open Space Preservation Board; and many private donors. Thank you to Paul Berkobin and Paul Ford of RT Ventures, Inc., owners of the 38.7-acre parcel, for their foresight in imagining the conservation use for their land. And a special thank you to Jeff Sturniolo, Pat Morse, and Mac Rayback who provided expert advice and services throughout the acquisition process.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Staff Recognition

Jennifer Shuey, ClearWater Conservancy's Executive Director for the past ten years, was selected as a recipient of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's 40 Under 40 Awards. Nearly 100 environmental professionals and volunteers were nominated for this statewide honor. Nominees included volunteers and professionals in a diverse range of environmental fields including planning, research, education and advocacy. The full list of award recipients can be found at [www.pecpa.org/40under40](http://www.pecpa.org/40under40).

In addition to her work at ClearWater, Jennifer has been a leader on the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee for the past decade, served on the PA Land Trust Association Board of Directors from 2002 through 2008, and is currently on PALTA's Policy Committee. She also has been pursuing her interest in art through her pastel landscapes of central Pennsylvania's forests, fields, streams, and skies.

Kelleann Foster, ClearWater Conservancy's President, nominated Jennifer on behalf of the Board of Directors. According to Kelleann, "ClearWater Conservancy has grown markedly under Jennifer's leadership for the past 10 years. She expresses a unique, positive spirit that inspires the community and helps us recruit and retain volunteers. We envision continued successes at ClearWater with Jennifer at the helm—she is a true leader and a solid, passionate advocate for the environment."

In other recognition news, we recently learned that both Jennifer Shuey and Katie Ombalski, ClearWater's Conservation Biologist have been recognized by the Centre Region Council of Governments for their 10 years of service to the community through ClearWater Conservancy.

# Otto's Golf-Fest Raises an Amazing \$45,000



**W**e lucked out with yet another year of sunny skies, and the temperatures in the 90s made the Otto's brew all the more refreshing. With the support of generous sponsors, donors and golfers we raised over \$45,000 for natural resource conservation in central Pennsylvania at the 7th Annual Otto's Golf-Fest—another new record!



Photo By Christopher Shannon

**Committee Chair Joe Bishop, Executive Director Jennifer Shuey, Otto's Pub & Brewery owner Roger Garthwaite, and Elks golf pro Steve Wager.**

The event was held on August 30 at the State College Elks Club, which provided us a great opportunity to highlight the stream and riparian restoration work that is happening at the State College Elks golf course in cooperation with ClearWater and our Riparian Conservation Program. It also gave the golfers a spectacular view of ClearWater's newest land acquisition project in Galbraith Gap, just west of Tussey Mountain Ski.

New this year, the State College Elks very generously provided a special incentive to the major sponsors of Otto's Golf-Fest. Bronze Sponsors and up received "Golden Tickets" to redeem for complimentary rounds of golf for the number of players that they sponsored. Thanks so much to the State College Elks Club for this generous new incentive!

Also new this year was the creation of two winners' plaques—one that will be on display year-round at Otto's Pub & Brewery and another that will travel from year to year to the winning team. Congratulations to this year's winning team sponsored by Doty & Hench with a score of 32: Joe Geise, Al Drobka, Joe Sommer, and John Gummo.

Please mark your calendars for next year's Otto's Golf-Fest on August 29, 2011, always the Monday before Labor Day. New golfers and sponsors are always welcome to join in—it's a lot of fun for a great cause!

To learn more about Otto's Golf-Fest or to get involved next year, visit [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.htm). This is also where you can find the full list of our 2010 Otto's Golf-Fest sponsors and donors.

## TAIT FARM FOODS HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

# Order Gifts Now Through November 29



**C**learWater Conservancy and Tait Farm Foods are partnering to bring you a local holiday fundraiser.



Photo By: Tait Farm Foods

**Tait Farm Foods' 4 Preserve Gift Box.**

What could be better than natural resource conservation working with agriculture to benefit our community?

Tait Farm products are made right on their farm, are all-natural and absolutely delicious. This is a wonderful opportunity to support land conservation and to share local products.

Please support our holiday fundraiser for your gift giving needs for family, friends, or clients. Approximately 40% of each purchase will directly benefit ClearWater Conservancy's natural resource conservation programs.

Items for sale include individual jars of Tait Farm Foods' popular jams, preserves, chutneys and fruit chocolate sauces. There are several gift collections and 2 and 3 jar totes for sale, too. These selections are unique holiday gifts that allow you to give locally from the region we all call "home". These products may viewed on line at [TaitFarmFoods.com](http://TaitFarmFoods.com).

Please use the order form inserted in this issue of the newsletter to order by mail or fax. Online electronic ordering is available on our website at [www.ClearWaterConservancy.org](http://www.ClearWaterConservancy.org). Orders must be received on or before Monday, November 29. Items will be available for payment and pick-up at the ClearWater office on Monday, December 13 from 9am to 5pm.

Shipping to out-of-town addresses is available at Tait Farm Foods' regular UPS Ground rates as listed on ClearWater's website.

Questions may be directed to Jennifer Shuey at (814) 237-0400 or [jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org) or to Karen Myford at [myford4@comcast.net](mailto:myford4@comcast.net).



## Lucy Boyce & Steve Schroeder Help Us Grow Native

ClearWater's Growing Native Program started in 2006 to propagate locally native riparian shrubs and trees for use in our riparian restoration projects. Thanks to lead volunteers Lucy Boyce and Steve Schroeder, ClearWater is able to diversify stream buffer plantings with hard-to-find species such as bladdernut and

wild black currant and also with common native species such as ninebark and silky dogwood. Over the years, Lucy and Steve have collected thousands of seeds and cuttings from many local sources and then propagated and cared for this plant material.

A big 2010 project was to collect and propagate native plant material from the former Dayton Dam site in Moshannon State Forest. Over 600 cuttings were taken in March and then propagated at our Growing Native site during the summer in a homemade rooting bed. Once sufficient roots developed, volunteers transplanted the plants into pots where they continued to grow. These shrubs were then planted at the newly restored Dayton Dam site in early November where they will provide streambank stabilization and truly native riparian wildlife habitat.



Lucy and Steve coordinate and mentor other volunteers in the Growing Native program at a "potting party" at the Growing Native garden site in July.

Photo by Katie Ombalski



**Thank you to Steve and Lucy, co-winners of this year's Barbara Fisher Volunteer of the Year Award!**

## FROM THE COVER



## Dam Removal Opens Streams to Native Trout

◀ *Continued from cover* The project does not end with the removal of the structure. It also included restoring natural contours to about 200 feet of stream, building a small parking area for recreational users, and installing an interpretive sign that provides historical information about the dam and the importance of the CCC, as well as explanations of the benefits of dam removal. In addition, the project became part of ClearWater's Growing Native program. Katie Ombalski and ClearWater volunteers Lucy Boyce and Steve Schroeder collected natural plant materials from the site and propagated them for planting in areas disrupted by the dam removal.

The dam in Musser Gap originally provided a water supply impoundment for a number of farms in the valley along Route 45 in Ferguson Township. Built along an unnamed tributary of Slab Cabin Run in 1907, it had deteriorated long ago to the point where it was no longer functional, although several farms still retain rights to water from the stream below the dam. ClearWater and DCNR Bureau of Forestry staff worked very closely with these farmers to guarantee that the dam removal did not have negative impacts on their water supply.

The stream houses one of five remaining populations of native brook trout in the Spring Creek watershed. While working on a manuscript about Spring Creek, aquatic biologist Bob Carline evaluated brook trout populations in the region. "The stream had never been surveyed by the PA Fish and Boat Commission,

so we decided to check it out," he says. "We found young brook trout in pools below the dam, indicating that there is enough flow even in drought years to sustain a population." The removal of the dam and a culvert that passed beneath Musser Trail will provide a stream connection and allow the fish to move upstream to spawn.

"This is the first time that the stream has run free in more than a century," says Jason Albright of the DCNR Bureau of Forestry. "Also, as Musser Gap is integrated into the Rothrock State Forest trail network we anticipate heavy recreational use of the area. The dam highwall was a safety hazard, as was the impounded water when the pool was full." He pointed out that the removal provides several benefits: restored ecological function, improved aesthetics, and visitor safety. Funds for the removal, ~ \$17,000 were provided by an anonymous \$15,000 contribution and ClearWater's "Bring Back the Natives" grant. DCNR also contributed in-kind services to the project.

The agencies responsible for the projects emphasized that they would not have been possible without ClearWater Conservancy's participation. "As the projects increase in complexity, you need someone who can bring together many different kinds of expertise," says Dave Christine. Jason Albright adds, "ClearWater is a great partner. The Musser Gap dam removal project would not have gotten done without their leadership."

# Fun for All Ages at Spring Creek Festival

Visitors to ClearWater's 28th Annual Spring Creek Family Festival enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. This year's event, which took place on Sunday, October 3rd, attracted a great crowd of over 500 people, particularly families with young children.

People gathered by the dozen behind the Millbrook Marsh barn to listen to the Tussey Mountain Moonshiners' bluegrass



Photo By Christopher Shannon

The Tussey Mountain Moonshiners are a perennial favorite!

tunes, beautiful harmonies by Pure Cane Sugar, and catchy cover songs from Sound Shift.

Webster's Café provided a gourmet menu featuring a variety of hot beverages

and delicious entrée options for meat lovers and vegetarians alike.

Representatives from 25 local conservation groups were on hand to talk about their projects and educate visitors about how they can help protect our wildlife, water, forests, and open space. These groups included Bald Eagle Archeological Society, Canoe Club of Centre County, Centre County Conservation District, Centre County Pennsylvania Senior

Environmental Corps, Centre LifeLink EMS, Centre County Solid Waste Authority, Centre Region Parks and Recreation, ClearWater Conservancy, Garden Starters, Green Irene, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, Nittany Mineralogical Society, Pennsylvania Certified Organic, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Penn State Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, Penn State Department of Geography, Ridge & Valley Outings Club, Spring Creek

Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Spring Creek Watershed Association, State College Bird Club, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Tussey Mountain Outfitters, and West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition.



Photo By Christopher Shannon

Volunteer Melinda Turner teaches about native plants on the Marsh scavenger hunt.

Many of these organizations also provided nature-themed activities for children, including a scavenger hunt, macroinvertebrate study, and various arts and crafts.

Joe Jovinelly's Flemish Giant rabbits were very popular among visitors young and old who gathered to feel their soft fur. They were amazed by the rabbits' friendly demeanor.

Demonstrations included gemstone carving by the Nittany Mineralogical Society, an archaeological dig performed by the Bald Eagle Archeological Society, and a raised bed gardening workshop from the Garden Starters.

ClearWater Conservancy and the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited presented the 6th Annual Spring Creek Heritage Award to Bob Eberhart as the highlight of the Festival program. Bob's conservation work in the watershed spans two decades and has been largely focused on sustainable development. He is the current chair of the Spring Creek Watershed Association, a board member and secretary for the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a lifetime member of ClearWater Conservancy, and a board member of the Centre County Farmland Trust.

Bob has also been integrally involved in land use planning over the years through the Halfmoon Township and the Centre Region Planning Commissions.

Planning for next year's Spring Creek Family Festival has already begun under the direction of the new volunteer chair, ClearWater board member Melinda Turner. If you are interested in being a part of the 29th Annual Spring Creek Family Festival, please email her at [mel\\_m\\_farr77@hotmail.com](mailto:mel_m_farr77@hotmail.com) or

call the ClearWater office at (814) 237-0400. This is a great way to get involved in educating the next generation.

Thanks to event sponsors Centre Region Parks & Recreation, Nittany Chem-Dry, Tussey Mountain Outfitters, and Hilton Garden Inn.



Photo by Christopher Shannon

Young explorers saw stream life up-close and personal.



# Giving Thanks

*"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures."*

~ Thornton Wilder

This is the time of year when many of us intentionally turn inward to reflect on our blessings. Giving thanks is a powerful way of connecting with others and acknowledging the many ways that we are interdependent on one another.

ClearWater's blessings have been many this year. As we turned 30 in July we looked back to our founders with gratitude for their foresight. Did they dream that one day their efforts would grow to engage so many people in the protection and restoration of our local environment?

Let us all take a moment to express a silent thank you for those visionaries that make the work that we do every day at ClearWater Conservancy possible. But let's not stop there. Each day brings new opportunities for connection and gratitude. Here's just one small example.

I am thankful for a new friend of ClearWater that made my day last week. Siobhan teaches at a local charter school and stopped by the office to learn more about our watershed. She is pretty new in town and was eager to discover new stories to light that spark of understanding and connect her students to the natural world around them in new and inspiring ways.

I shared some of our fondest ClearWater projects with her, using our new Spring Creek Watershed map as a guide. I told her the stories of the Big Hollow, Spring Creek, the groundwater aquifer, Scotia Barrens, and Musser Gap. As she left, I turned to Sarah and told her how much fun I just had. It really re-energizes me to tell people about our work here at ClearWater, especially after several hours of budget spreadsheets and other such daily details of management.

On further reflection, I realized that I not only passed along some useful information to a new friend and fellow conservationist, but also indirectly touched the lives of a whole classroom of students. That is why this work is really so gratifying. By taking the time to share a ClearWater story with someone new, each of us can reach out and touch another person. And who knows what that next person might go on to do!

Thank you to all of you for giving of your time, talents, and resources to help ClearWater Conservancy make a positive impact on our local natural resources. I treasure your support and try to live up to it each day.

Now I challenge you; what are the ways that you too can help to pass it on?

Jennifer Shuey  
Executive Director, ClearWater Conservancy

*Part 3 of an Ongoing Series of Financial Tips for our Members Who Wish to Support ClearWater with Longer-Term Donations*

## IRA Distributions

The last two Financial Tips in this column covered gifts during your lifetime and gifts through your will. Another method of making charitable gifts to ClearWater Conservancy is through your Individual Retirement Account. You may name ClearWater as a beneficiary in your IRA plan.

If you have a \$100,000.00 IRA account, and you name ClearWater Conservancy as a 50% beneficiary, then 50% of the value of your IRA at the time of your death will pass to ClearWater. The advantage is to your estate. IRAs are subject to Pennsylvania inheritance tax, Pennsylvania income tax, and Federal income tax. In addition, if your estate is large enough, there is a possibility of a federal estate tax. The taxes that may be imposed upon an IRA are terrific.

By using the IRA to make a gift to ClearWater, you may take advantage in reducing the above noted taxes that you will be required to pay at the time of your death, and at the same time benefit ClearWater Conservancy.

If you would like information on how to make ClearWater a beneficiary of your IRA, please contact Jennifer at (814) 237-0400 or [jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org).

All ClearWater members are encouraged to remember ClearWater Conservancy during estate planning. For our 30th Anniversary, our goal is to confirm 30 charter members of our new **LISLE Circle**. Established to honor Elsa Lisle, who named ClearWater in her will in 2009, the **LISLE Circle** recognizes future contributions to ClearWater Conservancy through estate planning and other deferred gifts such as IRA Distributions.



**by James M Rayback, Attorney  
and member of ClearWater  
Conservancy Board of Directors**



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## ON THE HORIZON *Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events*

### MONTHLY MEETINGS:

#### **ClearWater Board of Directors**

2nd Thursday, 7:30 – 9 am, Patton Township Building

#### **Spring Creek Watershed Association**

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 – 9:30 am, Patton Township Building

#### **Spring Creek Watershed Commission**

3rd Wednesday, 7 pm, Spring Township Building

#### **ClearWater Land Conservation & Stewardship Committee**

4th Wednesday, 5 – 6:30 pm, ClearWater Office

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

#### **ClearWater Board Election**

**Tuesday November 16**

**Celebration Hall, 5:45 pm**

This year we will have a separate, short business meeting to elect the Board of Directors prior to our annual Member Dinner. Bios of the Board candidates may be found at [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/events.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/events.htm). All current dues-paying members are eligible to vote. You may attend the business meeting without staying for the dinner.

#### **ClearWater Annual Member Dinner**

**Tuesday November 16, \$30 per person**

**Celebration Hall, 6 pm social hour and cash bar, 6:45 pm dinner, 7:30 pm program and volunteer recognition**

Buffet dinner, celebration of our 30th Anniversary, special volunteer recognitions, and the debut showing of our new film about Watershed Cleanup Day. RSVP to Sarah at (814) 237-0400 or [sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org) by Monday, November 8.

#### **Deadline for Tait Farm Foods Holiday Orders Monday November 29**

Buying your holiday gifts for clients and friends through our Tait Farm Foods Holiday Sale supports a local farm and business, is convenient for you, raises funds for important land and water conservation projects, and is delicious! Mail or fax the enclosed order form or fill it out electronically and email it back. The form is available at [www.clearwaterconservancy.org](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org).

#### **12th Annual For the Love of Art & Chocolate Friday January 28**

**The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, 7 - 10 pm**

Indulge in a chocolate extravaganza courtesy of nearly 60 chocolate donors. Bid on a stunning array of nature-inspired art donated by talented and generous local artists. Enjoy live jazz. Support conservation in your community! Visit [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/chocolate.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/chocolate.htm) for art previews, a chocolate donor list, ticket information, the special raffles, and other details.

### SAVE THE DATE:

#### **2011 Watershed Cleanup Day**

**Saturday April 23**

Multiple sites throughout Centre County's watersheds

 [More Details At www.ClearWaterConservancy.org/Events.htm](http://www.ClearWaterConservancy.org/Events.htm)