

# CONSERVATION CONNECTION



CLEARWATERCONSERVANCY.ORG

SPRING 2011

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## SPECIAL EVENT

### Strides for Nature 5K & Spring Creek Family Festival

*Saturday June 18  
at Millbrook Marsh  
Nature Center*

*5K at 8:30 am  
Kids' Fun Run at 10 am*

*Family Festival  
10 am to 3 pm*

Put on your running shoes and pack up the family for a full day of outdoor activity. This year, the Strides for Nature 5K/Kids' Fun Run and the Spring Creek Family Festival will be back-to-back at Millbrook Marsh. Cometo run and stay for fun! The Family Festival is free and includes educational exhibits, interactive educational activities, food and live music.

For more information on the 5K, go to [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/StridesForNature6K.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/StridesForNature6K.htm). To register for the 5K or become a fundraiser, go to [www.active.com/donate/clearwatercons2011](http://www.active.com/donate/clearwatercons2011).

For more information on the Spring Creek Family Festival, go to [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/springcreekday.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/springcreekday.htm)

## Buck Run conservation easement preserves Burgwin's land & legacy

**A** conservation easement finalized on January 26 will help ensure a Clearfield County stream and its native brook trout are protected, thanks to the efforts of ClearWater Conservancy and the late Margaret Burgwin, who owned the land.

Burgwin's 60-acre property in Girard Township, Clearfield County, is unique in that it contains the only brook trout stream in the Deer Creek sub-watershed. The land lies within the Moshannon State Forest Landscape Conservation Area, defined by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy as a large contiguous area which is important because of its size, open space and habitats.

Burgwin approached ClearWater Conservancy in February 2010 at the suggestion of her estate planner, Attorney Amos Goodall. She wanted to preserve her property, which she inherited from her late husband Lane Carpenter, in its natural state. The land is used for hiking, camping and simply enjoying wildlife.

"This is Lane's vision and legacy," Burgwin said at the conservation easement closing.

The land had been logged prior to their purchasing it in 1995, and "we just wanted to watch it grow."

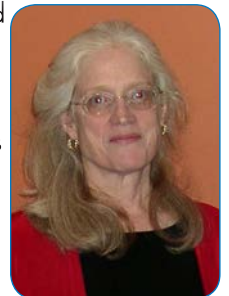
Burgwin also contributed to the success of the project by making a donation for perpetual monitoring of the easement and the legal defense fund.

The high quality of the water in Buck Run caught the attention of Trout Unlimited, a national organization that works to conserve North America's coldwater fisheries. TU assisted ClearWater in acquiring the easement by providing \$4,842 for transaction costs and perpetual stewardship of the easement from its Brook Trout/AMD Restoration Fund, provided by the R.K. Mellon Foundation.

*Continued on page 9* ►

### Margaret Burgwin 1958-2011

Margaret Burgwin died March 28 of melanoma. She was 53. All of us at ClearWater send our condolences to Margaret's fiancé, Robert, and her family.



Before she died and despite her fatiguing illness, Margaret fulfilled the dream she had to honor her late husband Lane by preserving for all time his beloved land on Buck Run. She was single-minded about completing the conservation easement before she died.

We at ClearWater Conservancy know how hard it was for Margaret to work through the easement process.

We will honor the wishes of Margaret and Lane as we continue to protect the land that was so special to them.

 For more information about conserving land with conservation easements, contact Bill Hilshey at (814) 237-0400.



# The union of ecology and democracy essential

I believe many agree that we are fortunate to live in a democracy—though at times it can be trying. It is interesting to reflect on our country's founding, when citizenship was grounded in land stewardship and direct democracy. Unfortunately, over the years, applied ecology and direct democracy have become partners less and less frequently. Typically democracy is thought of mainly in political terms. However, one definition is “a state of society characterized by formal equality of rights and privileges.” Might we consider one of those rights to be the equal ability for all to enjoy the benefits of nature? I know that at ClearWater Conservancy we seek an informed and caring relationship with the land for all the citizens of our region.

There is an expression that is beginning to be used more frequently: ecological democracy. I like this notion very much—the idea that the interconnectedness of nature and ecology can be married with the expectancy of rights and responsibilities. I realize that the idea of nature is different for each of us. However, if you ask people, they will be quite articulate about it. What it means for them, how it fulfills needs, what pleasures they take from it and the like. So in reality, there is unity in diversity—nature has the power to unify fractures in our culture. We all know that clean air and water are essential to life—some would say these are shared rights. As our state faces (yet again) the challenges of natural resource extraction, I hope that we can all focus on the unifying power of nature.

From the book “Design for Ecological Democracy” by Randolph T. Hester:

*“Together—and only when integrated—ecology and democracy provide the foundation for making informed choices and better cities and for discovering more fulfilling lives. The union of ecology and democracy is essential for making a sustainable future and providing us with greater happiness.”*

Related to the topic of the happiness that nature can bring, we are most pleased to report that over 500 people enjoyed a wonderful evening in late January at our annual “For the Love of Art and Chocolate” event. Thanks to all of our sponsors, artists, food and chocolate donors, volunteers, and you, the attendees! This year's event broke a record, raising \$32,000 to help support our mission of everyone working together to conserve natural beauty and the environment in the heart of Pennsylvania. Next up—and a terrific example that demonstrates our responsibility to the local ecology—Watershed Cleanup Day on Saturday April 23rd. Please check out the marvelous new video about this event playing on C-NET Channel 7.

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.

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*Printed on recycled paper.*

ClearWater Conservancy is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. Code. Donations are tax-deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor Habitat Upgrades

**C**learWater will use a \$28,470 grant it received in February to improve wildlife habitat at its Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor property near Stormstown.

The Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Service will be used to turn a field back to forest, remove invasive plants and create habitat for pollinator species such as butterflies and hummingbirds on ClearWater's 38-acre property. Formerly farmland, the tract is now mainly hayfield.

"By reforesting the field with native shrubs and trees, we can provide cover and habitat for many types of wildlife and a pathway for amphibians that live and breed in temporary pools of water on the edge of the property to the nearby forest of the State Game Lands," said Bill Hilshey, ClearWater's conservation easement manager.

Also being planned for the site, with the help of Jeff Sturniolo of Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. and Mark Haefner of Keller Engineers, is the creation of a public parking lot off of Harness Downs Road. The gravel, 10-space lot will be the start and end of two planned loop trails, one long and one short. Dan Dreibelbis,

who owns neighboring property, will mow the trails three times a year. Construction of the lot is planned for the spring. Other new site features are 20 bird boxes mounted on metal pipes. The boxes, 10 sized for eastern bluebirds and 10 for tree swallows, ring the property. They were assembled, installed, and sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 375 of Stormstown. Bryan Lucas, Andy Freeman and Robert Poorman acquired and prepared materials for the job.

The project is part of a larger ClearWater effort to create a wildlife corridor between State Game Lands 176 and nearby Bald Eagle Mountain. Called the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor, the initiative created a strip of protected land to serve as a safe passage for wildlife from the mountain through the valley to the Scotia Barrens area, of which SGL 176 is a part.

Encroaching development threatens to cut the Barrens off from other wild areas.

ClearWater continues to seek donations of funds for perpetual management and stewardship of this land. For more information about the site master plan and ways you can give, please contact Bill Hilshey at [bill@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:bill@clearwaterconservancy.org).



Photo By Eric Foxengrant

Boy Scouts from Troop 375 install a bird box at ClearWater's Barrens to Bald Eagle wildlife corridor.

## ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

Public comments on application welcomed by accreditation commission

### ClearWater applies for land trust accreditation

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. ClearWater Conservancy is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs.

"Accreditation demonstrates our unified commitment to strong ethics and permanent protection of the land. At a time when federal and state governments are looking for places to cut, it is more important than ever that we publicly demonstrate our commitment to excellence," according to Rand Wentworth, President of the Land Trust Alliance.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how ClearWater Conservancy complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see [www.landtrustaccreditation.org/getting-accredited/indicator-practices](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/getting-accredited/indicator-practices).

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on ClearWater Conservancy's accreditation application will be most useful by July 2.



Attorneys **John Baker** and **J. Corey Reeder** and their firm, **McNees, Wallace & Nurick LLC** of State

College. John connected us with Corey, who drafted the conservation easement and reviewed title documents for ClearWater's recent Buck Run conservation easement in Clearfield County.

**Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited** for provided funding from the Brook Trout/AMD Restoration Fund to assist ClearWater in acquiring a conservation easement on the Buck Run property. Also to the **R.K. Mellon Foundation**, which provided the funds to TU.

**Dave Whiteman** for donating plywood for our cover board amphibian survey, **Duerr & Visnovsky Design and Construction** for delivering the plywood to our offices, **Bryce Boyer** for cutting it into 75 2'x3' cover boards, and **Jim Julian** for setting them up and monitoring them throughout the spring.

**Halfmoon Towing** for getting us out of a tight spot!

**Blair County Conservation District** for donating tree pots for our Growing Native program.

**McQuaide Blasko Attorneys at Law** for sponsoring our spring GIS internship and **Riparia** for providing a vehicle for our intern to use for fieldwork.

**Art Gover** for preparing the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor for a spring tree planting.

**Matt Keefer** for hand delivering a grant package to Harrisburg.

**Jennifer Chesworth** for writing a riparian buffer article for the College Township newsletter and **College Township** for helping to spread the word about riparian stewardship.

**PA Fish and Boat Commission staff** for helping to implement riparian restoration projects at the McCoy Public Access, Penn State Sheep Farm, Spring Creek Park in Houserville, Fisherman's Paradise, and the J. & F. Beezer Distillery Spring Creek Public Access. These projects were Spring Creek Trout Unlimited projects administered by ClearWater Conservancy.

**Tim Murtha** for helping to identify historic and archaeological resources for the Penn State Musser Gap Greenway project permit, a project that also helped his students gain valuable field experience.

**Judy Loy** of Nestlerode & Loy for helping ClearWater staff with their retirement investments.

**Genie Robine, Joyce McKay** and **Mick McKay** for helping out with water quality sampling in November.

**Genie Robine, Steve Lupis** and **Mick McKay** for picking up the slack created by the vacancy in the Water Resources Coordinator position and braving frigid December

## KUDOS

temperatures to conduct water quality sampling at 15 stream sites and seven spring sites. This sampling was critical for ensuring continuity of the water quality database.

**Joe Humphreys, Vance McCullough, Mark Belden** and **Greg Hoover; Tracey Olexa; and Leroy Young, Spring Reilly** and **Tim Gardener** of the **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission** for making our Day on Spring Creek with Four Penn State Fly Fishing Legends event a big success.

**Boy Scout Troop 375**, Stormstown, for assembling, installing, and sponsoring 20 bird boxes at the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor and **Bryan Lucas, Andy Freeman** and **Robert Poorman** for acquiring and preparing materials for the job.

**Jeff Sturniolo** of **Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc.** and **Mark Haefner** of **Keller Engineers** for donating their time and expertise to the creation of the parking lot at the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor.

**Bryce Boyer** for maintaining power equipment and building rooting beds for our Growing Native Program.

PSU biologists **Jim Julian** and **Jackie Grant** and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission biologists **Andy Shiels** and **Kathy Gipe** for making our Vernal Pool Tour possible.

**Abigail Testament** for her invaluable assistance as we prepare our application for accreditation.

**Michael Couch** of Michael Couch & Associates for facilitating ClearWater's Board Strategic Planning retreat and community focus groups. Also to **The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park** for the excellent retreat facilities and meals.

The **51 people, members and non-members**, who provided focus group input to ClearWater about what they thought we should continue, start, and stop.

The many **artists, dessert donors, corporate sponsors,** and **volunteers** who made this year's For the Love of Art & Chocolate the best yet. **See the full list at [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/chocolate.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/chocolate.htm).**

**Sinead O'Connor, Lindsay Gunderman, Kirk Miller,** and **Andy Stauffer** – our current class of interns.

The members of the Watershed Cleanup Day Committee: **Chris Finton** (chair), **Sarah Edge, Sam Komlenic, Rodney Fye, Paul Bartley, Judi Sittler, Joanne Shafer, Jim Ruth, Jeff Sturniolo, James Gazza, Brianna Hutchison, Genie Robine, Gary Dunmire, Dylan Wadlington, Diana Watson, Chris Haser, Bob Vierck, Bob Belinda, Kristine Lang McDonald,** and **Ann Donovan.** And to the post-event volunteer picnic leaders **Laura Zaino** and **Deanna Afflitto.**

## WELCOME

**New Members from November 3 to April 13**

**Cindy Tibbot**  
**Kathleen Brown**  
**David & Julie Wourms**  
**John Groenveld**  
**Robert Anderson & Kim Tait**  
**Chris & Tina Hennessey**  
**Daryl & Judy Sinn**  
**Bill & Linda Bressler**  
**Gene Bazan**  
**Larry Williamson**  
**Michael Dewey**  
**Robert Ricketts**  
**Craig & Margaret Pursell**  
**Delores Wallace**  
**Kenneth Leath**  
**Lynn Ammon**  
**Robert Pfahl**  
**Philip Schrodt & Cecelia Mills**  
**Steve & Paula White**  
**Roy & Susan Hammerstedt**  
**Cate Twohill**  
**Deb & Ed Escalet**  
**John & Roxanne Parrott**  
**Vincent & Lois Lunetta**  
**Paul Knight**  
**Kathleen Domenig**  
**Alice Wilson**

## BUY THE BOOKS

**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 also have copies of **A Naturalist's Guide for Mountain Bikers, Hikers & Drivers To The Seven Mountains**, by Robert Butler and E. Kepler Sones for sale for \$15.

# Judy Moore joins LISLE Circle through will

**O**n a dreary, wet night in March Judy Moore of State College could be found traipsing through the woods of the Scotia Barrens, participating in a ClearWater Conservancy Adventures in Conservation outing to search for migrating salamanders.

Judy's late husband Jack spent time at Scotia, as well. He went there often in the fall with his German Shorthaired Pointer Pete to scour the thickets in search of grouse.

Jack, a professor of chemistry, and Judy, a music teacher, moved to State College from Maryland in 2005 to retire. ClearWater Conservancy became part of their new life here, particularly for Jack, who loved the outdoors and conservation.

He volunteered for Watershed Cleanup Day and, along with Pete, was part of another Adventures in Conservation program, a bird dog demonstration.

When Jack died suddenly in May 2010, memorial contributions were directed to ClearWater in remembrance of Jack's commitment to the Conservancy. Recently, Judy also took steps to include ClearWater in her will.

"Jack told me he wanted ClearWater to be in the will, and after he died I made the change," she said. "Jack loved ClearWater Conservancy. I'm inheriting this mantle from him."

Judy is now a member of the LISLE Circle. The LISLE Circle recognizes those who have invested in the future of ClearWater Conservancy by naming it as a beneficiary of their estate plans. The name honors Elsa Lisle, a conservation easement holder and the first to leave a large bequest to ClearWater Conservancy upon her death in 2009.

Judy said she is glad to know that she and Jack will forever be a part of ClearWater's conservation, restoration and education work.

"It is vital to husband the land and water and the air. ClearWater has taken on that charge, and I believe that is important."

If you would like more information about the LISLE Circle and the options available for Planned Giving at ClearWater Conservancy, please contact Jennifer Shuey at [jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org) or (814) 237-0400.



Photo By Chris Hennessey

Judy Moore, the newest addition to the LISLE Circle, in her State College home.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

### VOLUNTEER NEEDS

If interested, ask Jen for additional details.

- + Event-day volunteers for both events on June 18, the Spring Creek Family Festival and the Strides for Nature 5K and Kids' Fun Run.
- + A volunteer to serve as ClearWater's second representative on the quarterly Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee.
- + Volunteers interested in serving on the planning team for this year's Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival On Tour in September.
- + Volunteers who would like to attend community events with a ClearWater display and materials. Training is available for these "ClearWater Ambassadors", but the main requirement is a friendly attitude and a willingness to chat.
- + A volunteer to be ClearWater's representative on the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Northcentral Regional Citizens' Roundtable. Quarterly meetings, usually in Williamsport.

### 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 make a donation towards part of a big need? Our current specific needs include, but are not limited to:

- + A new computer with the capacity to efficiently run our ARCGIS 10 mapping software - \$1,700
- + Funding for the parking and trail head area at the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor - \$1,200
- + A refurbished tape drive for our computer backup system - \$450
- + Donations for our Connections program. \$300 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.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

### McQuaide Blasko Law Firm supports internship

The central Pennsylvania law firm McQuaide Blasko has again sponsored a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) intern at ClearWater Conservancy. In 2010, McQuaide Blasko contributed \$1,000 in funding. For 2011, the contribution has been increased to \$1,500.

The first intern to benefit from this new partnership is Kirk Miller. Kirk will graduate in May with a BS in Forest Management and a minor in Geographic Information Systems. His primary GIS project at ClearWater Conservancy has been to map and analyze potential alignments for a permanently protected wildlife corridor connecting Scotia Barrens and Tussey ridge. This is the next phase of a comprehensive effort to connect the Scotia Barrens ecosystem in the valley with the forested ridge ecosystems that bound it to the north and south. With this analysis, ClearWater staff will be able to proactively reach out to key landowners and offer them voluntary conservation options for their properties.



Jennifer Shuey, executive director of ClearWater Conservancy, thanks James M. Horne, managing director of the McQuaide Blasko Law Firm.

Photo By: Thomas Miller

Additional measures will disconnect several roadside drainage ditches, including one from nearby Route 322, which currently dump straight into Spring Creek, and redirect that water to nearby low areas where it can slowly percolate into the ground, Ziegler said.

Riparian buffer plantings will be installed upstream and downstream of Sharer Road through cooperation with the adjoining Oelbermann and Nittany farms to further protect the waterway.

In addition to the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads, the Oelberman and Nittany farms, and Harris Township, a host of partners will contribute to the project: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided site surveys, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Nittany Farm will aid in establishing the riparian buffers, Harris Township will provide heavy equipment and operators and WHM, Inc. will provide additional survey and permitting services.

A portion of a previously awarded \$150,000 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide additional funding for the project. Additional grant funding will be applied for through the Dirt and Gravel Roads Program.

## ADVENTURES IN CONSERVATION

### Vernal Pool Tour draws adventurers to Scotia Barrens

About 40 hardy participants braved the cold, rain and muck alongside five biologists to search for salamanders and frogs March 23 as part of our Adventures in Conservation Series. PSU biologists Jim Julian and Kathy Gipe; Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission biologists Andy Shiels and Jackie Grant; and ClearWater Conservancy biologist Katie Ombalski led the group and offered their expertise on the amphibian world. Unfortunately, the only amphibians sighted during the 2011 Vernal Pool Tour in Scotia Barrens were pre-captured models like the spotted salamander in the photo to the right. While there was lots of evidence of egg-laying and other amphibian activity, the near-freezing temperatures kept the animals from migrating and therefore, being seen. We'll try again next year. Thanks to everyone who turned out, especially our volunteer biologists.



Photo By: Chris Hennessy

PA Fish and Boat Commission biologist Jim Julian holds a spotted newt at the 2011 Vernal Pool Tour.

## RIPARIAN RESTORATION

### Road reconstruction helps protect Spring Creek

ClearWater has been awarded a state Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grant for \$37,778 to improve water quality in the headwaters of Spring Creek by reconstructing a section of Sharer Road in Harris Township susceptible to washing out during high water.

The road is owned by Harris Township and intersects Spring Creek between Nittany Farm and the Oelberman farm.

"The issue is that when the creek rises during heavy rains, it overruns the road. The road is not paved, but gravel, and the rain washes the gravel and sediment from the road into Spring Creek. That affects the water quality in a narrow and fragile part of the headwater, and we would like to stop that," said Katie Ombalski, conservation biologist at ClearWater Conservancy.

The section of road that intersects the creek has been redesigned by the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies at Penn State University to withstand high water without washing out or adding sediment to the creek.

"The new road will have designed-in flow relief that the average traveler will probably never notice, but will make the road more durable and more environmentally sound," said Tim Ziegler, field operations specialist at the Center.

A new system of pipes will carry the stream under the road during normal conditions. During floods, the road itself is designed to act as a spillway. A subtle low spot in the center will draw high water gently over a 50-foot section of reinforced road, allowing the water to pass without backing up into the surrounding fields or destroying the road, Ziegler said.

## GREEN AND GROWING

### Garden Starters ready for growing season

Garden Starters is getting ready for the 2011 season. We will start workshops in May and continue through summer into the fall. Last year, our first, was a great beginning. We built four raised beds at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and had a number of workshops in the demonstration gardens and at other locations. We built rain barrels, had a canning workshop, and held a

# ENVIRONMENTAL EXTRAS

fall celebration dinner, among other fun and interesting activities. This year we are planning even more events including tours of some outstanding local gardens.

The Garden Starters mission is to encourage and assist people who want to start gardening. We know there is much more involved in gardening than just getting started. Issues come up all through the growing season, and to help with these questions, there will be someone at the demonstration garden at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center on most Saturday mornings this year, weather permitting, to work in the beds and to consult in impromptu meetings. It's always good to share experiences and hear what folks are doing in their gardens.

This year we will devote four successive weeks to preparing and planting one raised bed at a time. We will demonstrate making a raised bed frame, talk about proper mixing of planting soil and proper placement of seeds and plants in the ground. We will be exploring "square-foot gardening" to see how much we can get from a four by eight foot garden. It was gratifying to notice that tomatoes never spoiled on the vines last year; we are delighted to share and know that folks got a taste of them. There will be more of them this year, along with snow peas and herbs.

We are also encouraging neighborhoods and religious organizations to start planting community gardens, and we are ready to help with those in any way we can. These gardens are great for bringing neighbors together, strengthening community ties, and growing good food to share and to provide excess produce for food banks.

The biggest part of our mission is to encourage community involvement, to get people together to share food and friendship. I can't think of a better way to do that than gathering around a garden and a table piled with wholesome, delicious homegrown food.

We will be at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center for Earth Day Birthday, April 17, so come on out! There will be a lot of activities going on this summer so stay tuned. You can find us on Facebook at Garden Starters and on our ClearWater Conservancy page by googling: "Garden Starters ClearWater."

For more information, contact Bill Sharp at [bsharp@comcast.net](mailto:bsharp@comcast.net).

## IN THE OFFICE

### ClearWater adds two to staff in February

**Nick Schipanski** is the new Water Resources Coordinator at ClearWater Conservancy. A water resources professional for 14 years, Nick's primary role is to oversee the Water Resources Monitoring Project, a cooperative effort between ClearWater and the Spring Creek Watershed Association to observe and record water levels and quality in the Spring Creek watershed.

Nick will maintain the Project's 27 stream, spring and ground water monitoring stations in the Spring Creek Watershed and conduct quarterly water sampling. In addition, he will work with volunteers, including the Pennsylvania



Photo By Christopher Shannon

**Nick Schipanski**

Senior Environmental Corps. Another of his duties is to plan ClearWater's annual Watershed Cleanup Day, to be held this year on April 23.

Nick was born in California and grew up in Washington State. He holds an M.S. in Environmental Health from the University of Washington and a B.S. in Biology from Washington State University.

He and his wife, Meagan, have one daughter and live in State College. He enjoys skiing and biking in his spare time.

**Chris Hennessey** has joined ClearWater Conservancy as Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator. A 16-year-veteran of newspapers and public relations, Chris is initially tasked with spreading the word about ClearWater's many initiatives and events through the media and through the production of ClearWater's newsletter and electronic media channels. Once comfortable in that role, he will take on volunteer coordination as well.

Chris lives in State College with his wife, Tina, and their two children. He holds a B.A. in Journalism from Temple University.

He enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and camping. In addition, he serves on the board of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited and teaches news writing at Penn State.



Photo By Christopher Shannon

**Chris Hennessey**

## FUNDRAISERS

### Tait Farm holiday fundraiser a success

Thank you to everyone who ordered delicious Tait Farm Food products through ClearWater's holiday fundraiser. We raised over \$800 to support natural resource conservation, and we definitely plan to do this fundraiser again this year! Watch for a new and improved online ordering process.

## ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH

### Webinar focuses on WRMP data

The Water Resources Monitoring Project, a program of the Spring Creek Watershed Association, held a webinar on April 6 for local municipal officials and the public. The webinar focused on the Water Resources Monitoring Project, its background, trends in water quality and quantity, and what has been learned to date. Among those appearing in the webinar were several members of the WRMP Committee including: Ann Donovan, watershed specialist at the Centre County Conservation District who was the moderator; Rick Wardrop, chair of the WRMP and hydrogeologist with Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure who provided an overview of the WRMP, its mission and background; and Bob Carline, past-chair of the WRMP, and formerly with the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS. Bob discussed what has been learned from the WRMP data collected over the years including trends in water quality and quantity. The webinar can be viewed at <https://breeze.psu.edu/p86868638/>.

## FEATURED EVENT

# Fly-fishing clinic draws anglers from across the region

**T**hirty-one anglers enjoyed “A Day on Spring Creek with Four Penn State Flyfishing Legends” on April 9 at Fisherman’s Paradise in Bellefonte and helped raise over \$10,000 for ClearWater Conservancy’s Galbraith Gap Land Acquisition Project.

Led by Joe Humphreys, Vance McCullough, Mark Belden, and Greg Hoover, the fly-fishing clinic offered a solid foundation in techniques, strategy and tactics, including on-stream fishing, a gourmet lunch and happy hour at the Governor’s Pub in Bellefonte.

Participants came from across Pennsylvania and as far as Virginia and New York for a chance to spend the day with the Legends.

Thanks to all our sponsors, especially our Green Drake sponsor, Veronesi Building & Remodeling. Thanks also to our outstanding volunteers: Tracey Olexa, who helped coordinate the event; Jim Strauss, who took photos; and Leroy Young of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, who welcomed the anglers to Fishermans Paradise.

And thanks last, but certainly not least, to the four Legends themselves, who helped create the event and volunteered their time and expertise.



Photo By Jim Strauss

Penn State Flyfishing Legends Vance McCullough, Mark Belden, Joe Humphreys and Greg Hoover at Fishermans Paradise April 9.

### Thanks to our generous sponsors:



Appalachian Outdoors  
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## FOR THE LOVE OF ART AND CHOCOLATE

# Perennial favorite fundraiser pulls in a record \$32,000

**C**learWater Conservancy’s 12th Annual For the Love of Art and Chocolate event drew more than 500 people and yielded \$32,000 to support natural resource conservation efforts in central Pennsylvania.



Photo By Christopher Shannon

Mary Mulligan and Judy Larkin choose some decadent treats from the many delicious options.

Held at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel on January 28, the event raised \$8,000 more than in any past year and offered guests more chocolate than they could eat. Take-home containers were brought out at the end of the evening to the delight of the guests. In addition to the sweet treats, attendees enjoyed

live jazz, raffles, and a silent auction of fine art inspired by nature and goods and services from area businesses.

The 73 items up for auction sold for \$10,574, another record by \$2,000.

Three special raffles were also a hit at For Love of Art and Chocolate this year. A Persian rug donated by Desert Rug Company of State College was won by Talley Fisher, and Katie Mann won a weekend retreat at the C. Barton McCann School of Art in Petersburg, including lodging, a cooking class and a massage. Janet Pontius won the fourth in a series of commemorative works by Boalsburg artist Jennifer Kane depicting lands conserved by ClearWater Conservancy. This year’s painting captures a view of the recently protected Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor.

To learn more about For Love of Art and Chocolate or to get involved next year, visit <http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/chocolate.htm>. This is also where you can find the full list of our 2011 For Love of Art and Chocolate sponsors and donors.



## Cate Twohill is dialing for chocolate

If you were one of the hundreds who sampled chocolates from the Centre Region and beyond at the 2011 For Love the of Art and Chocolate fundraiser, you have Cate Twohill of Lemont to thank for many of the wide variety of edibles.

Cate, a Lemont resident and ClearWater volunteer, spent many hours on the phone soliciting restaurants, caterers and manufacturers for donations of chocolate. She also helped organize pickup, delivery and follow-up with donors. She enlisted her husband, Mark Laskowski, to assist in her efforts, as well.

Cate, a marketing professional with past experience in non-profit fundraising at local and national Public Broadcasting stations, enjoys helping local businesses contribute to ClearWater's mission.

"I am very comfortable asking for solicitations for worthy causes like ClearWater," Cate said. "I think people want to give, you just have to ask them to do it. For me, the trick is to put yourself in their position and ask them in a way you'd like to be asked."



Cate Twohill spent many hours calling businesses in search of chocolate for this year's For Love of Art and Chocolate.

She first got involved volunteering for ClearWater for the 2010 Otto's Golf-Fest when her friend Joe Bishop, a ClearWater board member and chair of the Golf-Fest committee, asked her to help.

She solicited local businesses for donations, shared her past event planning experiences with the committee, and volunteered on the day of the event.

"That day, I pitched in wherever I was needed. I worked one of the holes at the Golf-Fest and helped with refreshments and things like that," Cate said.

Sadly for ClearWater, Cate will be relocating this year with her family to New England, but she enjoys the people and believes in the cause and promises to help from afar by phone. Jennifer will be sure to take her up on that offer, leaning also on Cate's good eye for fundraising letters and her marketing and social media expertise.

We will miss you, Cate. Thanks for all your hard work!

## FROM THE COVER



## Burgwin's Buck Run property preserved

◀ **Continued from cover** "Buck Run is one of the last remaining brook trout streams in the area that has not been damaged by abandoned mine drainage," said Rachel Kester, project coordinator for Trout Unlimited's Eastern Abandoned Mine Program. "We were very happy for the opportunity to help protect this coldwater stream."

Kester believes that as water quality improves in other portions of the sub-watershed, preservation of the water quality of Buck Run is even more important as Buck Run will serve as the only natural source of brook trout re-colonizers.

Abandoned mine drainage is considered the largest threat to the Appalachian environment, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

When a landowner grants a conservation easement to an organization such as ClearWater Conservancy, the landowner retains ownership of the property while agreeing to limit certain activities that may be harmful to the property's resources. The landowner and ClearWater

Conservancy work together to determine which restricted and permitted land uses best meet the needs of both parties.

The conservation easement will stay with the land, regardless of future ownership. This will provide permanent protection of the property's conservation values.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> conservation easement ClearWater Conservancy holds. McNeese, Wallace and Nurick LLC donated their attorney services to assist with the legal aspects of the conservation easement.

"Everyone's all smiles at the closing of easements," said conservation easement manager Bill Hilshey. "I am always delighted to see the landowner satisfied that they did something good for their property."

Landowners who would like information about conservation options for their property are encouraged to contact ClearWater Conservancy's conservation easement manager, Bill Hilshey, at (814) 237-0400 or [bill@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:bill@clearwaterconservancy.org).

# 'Connections' funds 988 student field trips

**C**learWater Conservancy awarded \$8,800 in funding February 24 through its "Connections" program for 988 students from 10 area schools to take part in field trips this spring to Millbrook Marsh Nature Center in State College.

ClearWater's long-standing "Students-Communities-Streams-Connections" program pays for transportation and admission to the nature center. At Millbrook Marsh, the children will learn about their local natural environment through interactive and hands-on outdoor activities and experiments.

"Trained naturalists introduce them to the wetland and the habitat. Activities include discovery walks, educational activities on the trail, experiencing the marsh hands-on by using their senses, and lots of exploration and discovery," said Molly Hetrick, recreational supervisor at Millbrook Marsh. "All the programs are designed based on the PA State Standards for Environment and Ecology and supplement the school district's classroom lessons."

Elementary and middle school students and their teachers received word about their grant awards in late February.

"We are very excited and thankful that we can visit the Millbrook Marsh," said one participating teacher, Michelle Krape of Pleasant Gap Elementary School. "It is a great complement to our Environment and Ecology Unit."

Spring 2011 funding recipients include:

## **Bellefonte Area School District:**

-Bellefonte Elementary Schools; teacher Kathleen Sillman; 227 fourth-grade students at a cost of \$1,825.50.

-Bellefonte Middle School; teacher Dave Gregor; 200 sixth-grade students at a cost of \$1,640.

-Pleasant Gap Elementary School; teacher Michelle Krape; 46 second-grade students at a cost of \$399.

## **Bald Eagle Area School District**

-Mountain Top Elementary; teacher Anne Houck; 32 first-grade students at a cost of \$385.60.

-Port Matilda Elementary, teacher Shawnee Morgan; 27 first-grade students at a cost of \$275.50.

## **Mifflin County School District**

-East Derry Elementary; teachers Jill Hartsock and Abby Henry; 52 second-grade students at a cost of \$481.

## **Philipsburg-Osceola Area School District**

-North Lincoln Hill Elementary School; teacher Cindy Bryan; 60 first-grade students at a cost of \$915.

## **Penns Valley Area School District**

-Penns Valley High School; teacher Jessica Martin; 92 seventh-grade students at a cost of \$1,090.

## **Private Schools**

-Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc., Philipsburg; teacher Amy Wible, 225 preschool students at a cost of \$1,462.50.

-State College Friends School, State College; teacher Dorothy Haberger; 14 kindergarten and first grade, students at a cost of \$171; and teacher Lisa Gamble, 13 kindergarten and first grade students at a cost of \$164.50.



Students learn about the marsh from the boardwalk.

 **Thanks to our Connections sponsors: The Hershey Company, State of the Art, the Centre County Community Foundation, the State College Evening Rotary Club and several individual donors.**

## **PaSEC joins water monitoring effort in Beech Creek Watershed**

The Centre County PA Senior Environmental Corps at ClearWater Conservancy joined Lock Haven University's geology program, the Centre County Conservation District and the Beech Creek Watershed Association to establish a baseline water quality monitoring program in the Beech Creek Watershed in Centre and Clinton counties in response to natural gas industry activity and the questions it has raised regarding how the gas drilling process might impact surface and ground water systems.

This study was conducted from May to November 2010. Project members conducted routine visual assessments of the streams and watersheds they monitored and gathered water-quality data and collected water samples.

Preliminary results indicate no apparent adverse impact on water quality in streams sampled during this past summer. Clearly, this was a modest attempt to assess water quality throughout the Beech Creek watershed. However, the prospects for additional funding to continue and possibly expand this monitoring project appear bright. Currently, planning is underway to increase the number of sample sites, add parameters to the list, and solicit and train more volunteers.

*The preceding was excerpted from a column by Dr. Md. Khalequzzaman of Lock Haven University published in the Lock Haven Express March 10, 2011.*



# Doubling Up

I am so pleased to announce to our ClearWater members the latest in a series of increasingly generous commitments to the organization by long-time member and past-President Don Hamer. Starting this year in 2011, Don has pledged up to \$50,000 per year for five years for a total of \$250,000.

A key component of Don's pledge is his intention that it be used as a matching challenge to leverage an additional \$50,000 per year from other ClearWater donors. There are two types of contributions that are eligible to be matched by Don's pledge. The first is a donation through ClearWater Conservancy's Operation Conservation campaign to support the development and execution of high-priority conservation and restoration projects. A current example of this type of project is our effort to purchase 152 acres of ecologically and recreationally important land in Galbraith Gap on Tussey Mountain.

The other type of investment that will be matchable in Don's book is a contribution to ClearWater Conservancy through estate planning or other deferred gifts. Supporters who invest in the long-term sustainability of ClearWater Conservancy and our region's natural resources by naming ClearWater as a beneficiary of their estate plans (and who let us know about it) are now being recognized as members of the LISLE Circle. Don would like to encourage additional LISLE Circle members. For each new member of the LISLE Circle, we will count that as \$5,000 worth of match for this challenge.

Don's priority for his investment is first and foremost initiatives at ClearWater Conservancy involving the Spring Creek Canyon. Beyond the Spring Creek Canyon, Don's investment may be used to support specific conservation and restoration projects that carry out ClearWater Conservancy's strategic plan.

We can't thank Don enough for his vision and commitment to this organization and our community. I encourage each of you to consider how you might be able to take advantage of his generosity and double the impact of your own giving to ClearWater Conservancy. Gifts through the Operation Conservation campaign are immediate, but gifts through estate planning have the potential to make an even bigger impact. What can you do?

An Operation Conservation envelope is provided in this newsletter. If you would like more information about the LISLE Circle, please call me to discuss options and details.

Jennifer Shuey  
Executive Director, ClearWater Conservancy

## Part 4 of an Ongoing Series of Financial Tips for our Members Who Wish to Support ClearWater with Longer-Term Donations

### Living Trusts

The first three Financial Tips in this column covered gifts during your lifetime, gifts through your will, and gifts through your Individual Retirement Account. Another method of making charitable gifts to ClearWater Conservancy is through a Living Trust.

If you have a Living Trust, established either in Pennsylvania or in another state, you may make a provision within the trust that will give a gift to ClearWater Conservancy at the time of your death. The set up is basically the same as in a Will.

The idea is to make a charitable gift at the time of death so as to reduce the value of the estate that is subject to Pennsylvania inheritance tax or federal estate tax. Remember that charitable gifts reduce the size of the gross estate and thereby subject the estate to less value to be taxed. This is a saving for your estate. At the same time, the charitable gift provides assets to ClearWater Conservancy to advance its natural resource conservation mission.

If you would like information on how to designate a charitable gift to ClearWater Conservancy through a Living Trust, 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.



by James M Rayback, Attorney and former 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:

#### **Penn State Master Gardeners' Evenings in the Garden**

Four Wednesdays: May 18, June 22, July 20 and August 17

#### **ClearWater Conservancy gardens, 7 pm**

The Master Gardeners will conduct tours for the public of their work at the ClearWater Conservancy demonstration gardens. Learn about native plants, meadows, rain gardens and more.

#### **Strides for Nature 5K and Kids' Fun Run**

Saturday, June 18

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, 8:30 am

Local runners are invited to lace up their running shoes for ClearWater Conservancy's 2011 Strides for Nature 5K/Fun Run. Registration begins at 7:30 am, the 5K starts at 8:30 am. Fun Run at 10 am. Register online in advance for \$18 at [www.active.com/donate/clearwatercons2011](http://www.active.com/donate/clearwatercons2011) or on race day

for \$25 starting at 7:30 am. For more information, email Pam Shellenberger at [stridesfornature5k@yahoo.com](mailto:stridesfornature5k@yahoo.com) or visit [clearwaterconservancy.org/StridesForNature6K.htm](http://clearwaterconservancy.org/StridesForNature6K.htm).

#### **Spring Creek Family Festival**

Saturday, June 18

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center 10 am to 3 pm

Fun for the whole family abounds when ClearWater and Centre Region Parks and Recreation partner up to host this free annual festival! Enjoy live music, local foods, and children's crafts while learning about the environment. For more information, go to [clearwaterconservancy.org/springcreekday.htm](http://clearwaterconservancy.org/springcreekday.htm).

#### **8th Annual Otto's Golf-Fest**

Monday, August 29

State College Elks Country Club, 7:30 am

Join ClearWater Conservancy for the 8th annual Otto's Golf-Fest! Whether you're a golf pro or just want to enjoy the summer sunshine, you're sure to find something fun. The four-person Throw, String Scramble with a Shotgun Start allows the golfers to set aside the "serious competition". The Otto's brew helps, too! For more information and registration details, go to [www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.htm).

### SAVE THE DATE:

#### **Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival On Tour**

Thursday, September 22

State Theater, 7 pm