

CONSERVATION CONNECTION



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FALL 2011

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Muddy Paws Marsh uses natural approach to fight invasives.

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Terry Melton keeps ClearWater's garden nurtured and native.

SPECIAL RAFFLE

Galbraith Gap print raffle benefits ClearWater



Local landscape artist **Jennifer Kane** has created a 24" X 32" stretched canvas Giclee print of her commemorative painting of Galbraith Gap. The original painting will be sold by Jennifer to benefit ClearWater Conservancy. Raffle tickets for the print are \$5 each. Proceeds from the raffle and the sale of the original painting will go to ClearWater's Operation Conservation campaign in support of future land conservation projects. This is the fifth painting in a series of works by Jennifer based on ClearWater's conserved lands. Contact us at the ClearWater office to purchase tickets!

Drawing to be held Jan. 27 at For the Love of Art and Chocolate!

To view Jennifer Kane's work, visit www.jenniferkaneart.com

Galbraith Gap purchase complete

Planned trail to link parking area with existing trails

ClearWater finalized its purchase of 152 mountainside acres in the Galbraith Gap area of Harris Township, Centre County, and transferred the land to public ownership as part of Rothrock State Forest.

The transfer to the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry occurred November 4 in State College.

"Protecting mountain gaps is a priority of ClearWater Conservancy's Land Conservation Program. These gaps are important groundwater recharge areas and provide unique habitat for many species of wildlife. Streams that flow through these gaps also often support remnant populations



Representatives of ClearWater and several partners discuss the layout for a new trail on the newly added Rothrock State Forest land.



ClearWater Conservancy's Executive Director Jennifer Shuey, Conservation Biologist Katie Ombalski and President Kelleann Foster flank Chip Aikens of Bellefonte at the closing Nov. 4 for 152 acres of Galbraith Gap property. The land owned by Aikens is now part of Rothrock State Forest.

of brook trout, a species in decline throughout its range," said Katie Ombalski, conservation biologist at ClearWater Conservancy. "Contributions from nearly 200 community members and local businesses and the hard work of several dedicated volunteers enabled the successful completion of the Galbraith Gap Land Acquisition Project."

To further protect the land, ClearWater Conservancy, in partnership with DCNR and the Nittany Mountain Biking Association, are partnering to develop a sustainable 1.1 mile multi-use

trail through the property in 2012 to connect DCNR's Galbraith Gap Trailhead Parking Lot with a portion of the existing Rothrock State Forest trail system.

"It is important that public access be developed without degrading the sensitive habitats of the Gap conserved by the acquisition," Ombalski said.

ClearWater was recently awarded a \$2,500 RecTAP grant from the Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Society to fund the trail design by Trail Solutions, a consulting

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For more information about the Galbraith Gap Trail construction, contact Katie Ombalski at (814) 237-0400.



Collective voices and energy equals impact!

We have numerous recent examples of the impact that is possible when we harness the power of collective voices and everyone's energy! While ClearWater has several wonderful staff, we're an organization whose capacity to have meaningful impact is greatly enhanced by volunteers. Last spring we had two wonderful events with valuable impact. The first was Watershed Cleanup Day on April 23. More than 300 volunteers turned out to help clear 50 tons of trash from our watershed. I have to admit, it continues to amaze me that, even though we go at this each year, there is still so much to be done. This is both a legacy of past abuses of the land, as well as folks today who are not thoughtful about their waste disposal. However, thanks to a dedicated committee and very energetic volunteers, we make a positive impact on our local environment each spring with this event—thank you to all who shared their time and energy to make this year another success and especially to Chris Finton who is retiring after several years chairing this event!

On June 18th we held our 2nd Strides for Nature 5K Run/Walk and also enjoyed a new time of year for our annual Spring Creek Family Festival. The weather cooperated beautifully and both events provided challenges as well as enjoyment. The important impact here is the value of bringing families together, outside, to become engaged in the local ecology while also having fun. This is truly a collective action as 25 organizations attended and supported this event. We are grateful to all who assisted and came out to visit at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

An extremely exciting example of the power of collective energies is our recent purchase and transfer of 152 acres in Galbraith Gap – which will forever be a part of the Rothrock State Forest. This is highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter, but it is vital to point out that this type of impact can only happen when many people work together. Please let ClearWater Conservancy know if you have an idea for an exciting project for which collective voices and energy can help to make a real difference.

Future opportunities for how our collective voices can make a difference are taking shape right now. Several of us from ClearWater have been meeting over the past few months with a group now known as the Environmental Coalition of Centre County (EC3). It is planned that by mid-November there will be a wiki-based website, whose goal is to interconnect the many organizations in the County that are working on complementary issues. We will pass on the web address when it is available. And Penn State would like to hear from ClearWater members as they embark on a very ambitious Sustainability Strategic Plan. They are seeking public comment on the draft plan, but we hope you will identify yourself as a ClearWater member if you do comment. Visit <http://green.psu.edu/SustPlan/> and see the tab on the left that says "We need your input."

Kelleann Foster, President



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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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Loosestrife management effort a success at Muddy Paws

By Sinead O'Connor

Greg and Mary Kay Williams were well aware of the potential of their 40-acre Spring Mills property when they purchased it in 1991. Once a wetland, the property had been drained for agriculture and the Williams were committed to restoring the property to its natural state. Little did they know a gang of voracious beetles would be enlisted to help them.

Restoring the wetland began in the fall of 2004 with the help of ClearWater Conservancy, the Penns Valley Conservation Association, the Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Centre County Conservation District and Ducks Unlimited. Mary Kay and Greg named the property Muddy Paws Marsh after their dog Max, who loved to get his paws muddy tromping through the marsh.

Today the restored wetland is an educational center that is open to the public for walks and by permission for groups. Local environmental organizations are getting involved at Muddy Paws by educating visitors about natural plants and wildlife and maintaining the marsh's natural beauty.

During the restoration process, a problem arose that would threaten the future of Muddy Paws Marsh when a small patch of purple flowers began growing in one section of the property. This seemingly harmless patch turned out to be the aggressive purple loosestrife.

Purple loosestrife is an invasive plant species that quickly adapts and expands in wetland settings. As it spreads, it overtakes and

eventually replaces the native plants that provide food and cover for wildlife.



Photo Courtesy Muddy Paws Marsh

Galerucella beetles snack on some purple loosestrife at Muddy Paws Marsh.

In a very short time, the little patch of loosestrife became a very large problem at Muddy Paws.

"It felt very suffocating," said Mary Kay. "What had started as a small, rather beautiful patch was all of the sudden taking over our marsh."

Not sure how to stop the spread, the landowners once again reached out to their partners for help. After reviewing several options it was decided to try a

Photo Courtesy Michigan Sea Grant



A close up of the Galerucella Beetle.

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ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

Year-Long Process Yields Feedback from Stakeholders, Sets Vision for Future Actions

ClearWater Board Adopts 2011 - 2016 Strategic Plan

Under the direction of professional facilitator Michael Couch, the ClearWater Board of Directors engaged in a comprehensive update of the organization's Strategic Plan. Adopted in October, the Plan outlines 14 major objectives in eight Strategic Initiatives that will guide the work of ClearWater over the next several years.

Feedback was sought from stakeholders from within the organization and beyond to the wider community. Over fifty people participated in a series of focus groups that resulted in detailed suggestions and some priority rankings for the Board to consider as they came together in an intensive retreat format at the Bald Eagle State Park in February.

Over the spring and summer, the ideas and priorities generated through the retreat evolved into a roadmap for the Board and staff that included identification of Strategic Initiative Leaders,

general timelines, and the resources that would be needed to advance the organization's goals.

The Strategic Initiative Leaders and staff continue to work on specific Project Plans for each objective in the categories of land & water conservation, education & outreach, marcellus issues, fundraising, staffing, marketing, membership development, and project management. According to Executive Director, Jennifer Shuey, "this process is already helping us to rethink the way that we are doing the work of ClearWater Conservancy by aligning things like our Board and Executive Committee agendas, staff meetings and staff reports to the Board, and our time tracking systems to the implementation of the Strategic Plan".

"The new Plan should help us to become more proactive and focused on what we ultimately want to see conserved and restored in beautiful central Pennsylvania."



KUDOS

Many people donate time and energy to further ClearWater Conservancy's goals. Here are just a few who pitched in recently...

Kathryn Urbanowicz and **Atsuhiko Muto** helped out at the Spring Creek Family Festival and at a tree planting at the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor in October.

Leah Donell designed an excellent promotional flyer for a ClearWater fundraiser in partnership with the Transylvania Epic mountain bike race.

Eagle Scout **Andrew Huff** of Troop 40 designed and created a loop trail within the forested portion of the woodlot at the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor for his Eagle Scout Project.

Eagle Scout **Alex Hardison** of Troop 375 organized 16 volunteers to plant 300 white pine saplings at the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor for his Eagle Scout Project.

Eagle Scout **Ben Meister** of Troop 83 did needed maintenance work on the riparian buffer along Spring Creek at the PSU Sheep Farm.

Genie Robine, Steve Lupis, Mick and Joyce McKay, Ed Jeffreys, Dan Delotto and **Ken Johnson** conducted water quality sampling for the Water Resources Monitoring Project in 2011.

Larry Kuhns of **Kuhns Tree Farm** donated professional services to spray purple loosestrife along Cedar Run.

Kathleen Yurchak, Harris Township, Tim Ziegler of the **Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies** and the **Centre County Conservation District** for many contributions to the Sharer Road reconstruction project.

PattyAnn and **William Hennessey** and **Barbara Kinne** pitched in and helped at a tree planting project at the Barrens to Bald Eagle Wildlife Corridor in October.

Congratulations are in order...

A tip of the hat to longtime ClearWater Conservancy member **Jim Finley** for his appointment as the Joseph E. Ibberson Chair in Forest Resources Management in the School of Forest Resources at Penn State.

The Ibberson Chair's purpose is to educate students and to continue leadership in the professional management of private forest resources. Finley, a PSU employee since 1975, is the leader of the Forest Stewardship Program, a multifaceted extension program directed toward private forest landowners to help them learn how to improve and maintain the ecological health of their land. Finley will fill the Ibberson chair for a three-year term, with subsequent five-year terms possible.

Corrie Maxwell, Mary Ann Crafts, Marge Seward, Ruth Luse, Lyn Gerace, Sue Tumlinson, and **Don & Diane Watson** for help with preparing mailings.

Ron Smith for improving the design of our Spring Creek Family Festival brochure.

Photographer **Eric Smith** for taking many great photos at the Otto's Golf Fest and **Stacie Bird** for doing the same at the Spring Creek Family Festival.

Mary Beth Wiseman for making possible two planting projects this fall.

Bob Eberhart for shuttling plants and equipment to a riparian restoration project in the Moshannon State Forest.

The many Penn State students affiliated with **Fresh Start, Circle K** and **Environmental Resources Management** who pitched in on planting and other outdoor projects this fall.

Volunteers **Andrea & Chris Murrell, Katie Mann & Jason Hill, Erin Garthe, Bill Wolfe, Stephanie Koons, Pat & Suzy Morse, Kylie Davis, Peter Scorzetti, Dipak Sahoo, Sinead O'Connor,** and **Charlene & Scot Chambers** for helping with the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival. Also to sponsors **Appalachian Outdoors** and **Tussey Mountain Outfitters**.



Photo by Chris Hennessey

Eagle Scout Alex Hardison at the planting project he led in September.

WELCOME

New Members from April 13 to October 19

Sue & Eric Porterfield
Judi Sittler
Alice Wilson
Seldon Smith & Eve Homan
Stephen & Katherine Yeaple
Laura Zaino
Jean Dietrich & James Miller
Cynthia Iberg
Anna Sewell
Kathryn Urbanowicz
Diane Henderson
Andy Weber
Michael Hertzler
Kathryn Ferrigno
Catherine & John Smith
Tracey & Rex Moore
Liz Hausholter
Travis & Jenny Tennesen
Brian Bates
Cynthia Berger & Bill Carlsen
Karen Roth
Christina Clair
Kathy & Dave Boetcher
Wesley Glebe
Mark Messenger
Virginia Brickwedde
Casey Fenton
Robert Conn
Frank Finsinger

Herb Thompson 1922-2011

ClearWater Conservancy lost a good friend when Herb Thompson passed away May 30. Herb had been instrumental in the early days of the Spring Creek Watershed Community (now Association) as he freely shared his communications talents. The first several years of the "Springs & Sinks" newsletters bear his imprint and helped to raise awareness of our watershed and foster a community of people willing to step forward to protect it. ClearWater is grateful for Herb's time with us as a dedicated volunteer.

Hamer Challenge doubles your donation

By Sinead O'Connor

Giving to the non-profit ClearWater Conservancy has always been a good idea, but starting this year, it's a slam dunk thanks to a matching donation program called the Hamer Fundraising Challenge.

Don Hamer, owner of State of the Art, Inc., a former ClearWater Conservancy president and longtime champion of conservation, has pledged to match up to \$50,000 per year for five years, starting in 2011, for a total of \$250,000 to ClearWater Conservancy by 2015.

Hamer said he hopes his challenge will encourage people to give a little more, as similar efforts for ClearWater have done in the past.

"I've done this type of challenge before, and it helped raise additional funds," said Don. "I talked to Jen Shuey, and we thought it would be a good idea to do it again."

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.

ClearWater hopes to achieve conservation, restoration and education

goals that they set through the Nittany Valley Conservation Action Plan and their new Strategic Plan by raising \$500,000+ from donors and concerned citizens.

The second eligible contribution is a donation to ClearWater Conservancy through estate planning or other deferred gifts. Supporters that name ClearWater as a beneficiary of their estate plans, now referred to as LISLE Circle members, can be a part of this long-term sustainability that Don encourages. ClearWater will count \$5,000 worth of match for each new LISLE Circle member.

"In the years to come there's going to be money needed for conservation and maintenance of conserved lands," said Don. "We don't know how much, but it could be considerable. Knowing that these funds will be available will help."

ClearWater Conservancy Executive Director Jennifer Shuey hopes that by stepping up to Don's challenge, individual members and donors can put their own conservation vision into action and feel good about the lasting impact they are making.



Don Hamer received the Spring Creek Heritage Award at the 2011 Spring Creek Family Festival. With him are ClearWater Executive Director Jennifer Shuey, left and President Kelleann Foster.

"Don Hamer has been incredibly generous to ClearWater over the years, and his latest pledge is truly a blessing," said Shuey.

"Through his challenge he is motivating us and our community to make long-term investments in the protection and restoration of our region's natural resources."

For more information about the Hamer Challenge, contact Jennifer Shuey at jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org or 814-237-0400.

Sinead O'Connor is a senior public relations major at Penn State and ClearWater Conservancy intern.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

If interested, ask Chris Hennessey for additional details.

- + Someone to volunteer two hours a week on a designated day to help out with general office tasks and data entry.
- + A volunteer to serve as ClearWater's second representative on the quarterly Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee.
- + 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.

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 - \$6,000
- + Donations for our Connections program. \$300 underwrites 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTRAS

RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Dam removal celebration includes project partners, media

ClearWater Conservancy staff was joined by about 35 project partners, supporters, board members and volunteers June 9 at a celebration of the removal of the Dayton Dam in Rush Township.

Completed in summer 2010, the effort to remove Dayton Dam was a partnership between ClearWater Conservancy, PA DCNR, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, PA DEP, PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Region.

The \$54,000 removal project restored 350 feet of river habitat. The shallow, two-acre impoundment created by the deteriorated dam is gone, allowing Sixmile Run to flow unimpeded past a host of new native riparian plantings. Wildlife is abundant, as are wild eastern brook trout in the new pools created as habitat in conjunction with the project.

The event was covered by the Centre Daily Times and TV news stations WTJ and WJAC.



Photo By Chris Hennessey

ClearWater Conservancy Conservation Biologist Katie Ombalski and Josh Lincoln of WHM Group, Inc. of State College answer questions from attendees about the removal of Dayton Dam. WHM generously donated a portion of its consulting services to the project.

FUNDRAISERS

Holiday fundraiser benefits ClearWater

Sale Dates: Monday, Oct. 31 - Wednesday, Nov. 23

ClearWater Conservancy and Tait Farm Foods are once again partnering to bring you a local holiday fundraiser. 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 consider supporting our holiday fundraiser for your gift giving needs. When you do, 30% of each purchase will directly benefit ClearWater Conservancy.



Items for sale include individual jars of Tait Farm Foods' popular jams, preserves, chutneys and fruit chocolate sauces, as well as some of their best selling gift collections. These selections are unique holiday gifts that allow you to give locally from the region we all call home. You may view all products on line at TaitFarmFoods.com.

Please use the order form inserted in this newsletter to order by mail or fax. We can also arrange for gift selections to be sent out of town via UPS delivery. Simply download a shipping form at www.clearwaterconservancy.org/events.htm and return it along with a separate check for delivery fees with your completed order. Orders must be received on or before Monday, Nov. 28. Items will be available for payment and pick-up at the ClearWater office on Friday, Dec. 9 or Monday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, email Sarah Edge at sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTION

Trekeast makes a stop in State College

John Davis made a 6,700-mile, man-powered journey from Florida to Canada this year, hoping to raise awareness of wild areas and the need to protect and connect them.

ClearWater Conservancy hosted Davis during a stop on his journey, called Trekeast, on July 21. Davis began his day with ClearWater's Jennifer Shuey and Katie Ombalski at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. They next visited the 152-acre tract in Galbraith Gap which ClearWater purchased for inclusion into Rothrock State Forest. The tour ended in Bellefonte with visits to Fisherman's Paradise and the McCoy Public Access on Spring Creek, the location of the former McCoy-Linn Dam, which was removed as a part of ClearWater's stream restoration initiative.

After his tour, Davis shared the story of his travels with the public at a presentation and Q and A session at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. His journey consists of hiking, kayaking and biking.

Davis began his trek Feb. 3 in the Florida Everglades and will finish on November 14 on Canada's Gaspé Peninsula. What was initially supposed to be a solo trip soon turned into a community effort that includes a blog, YouTube channel and Twitter account.



Photo Courtesy of Trekeast

Jon Davis on his trek.

ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH

CBICC members join CWC at Tussey Mountain Ski Area

Members of the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County joined ClearWater for a Business After Hours on Sept. 15 at the Pavilion at Tussey Mountain Ski Area.

The location was chosen to showcase ClearWater's nearby acquisition of 152 acres in Galbraith Gap, soon to be part of Rothrock State Forest. Chamber members enjoyed a beautiful but chilly fall evening, food by **Benjamin's Catering** and drinks from **Otto's Pub & Brewery** and **Mount Nittany Winery** at the pavilion near the pond.



Photo courtesy of CBICC / Sara Hoy

Danan Sharer of Nestlerode & Loy gets a closer look at the guest of honor, a black phase timber rattlesnake, at ClearWater's Business After Hours event in September.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTRAS

ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH

831 students take part in Connections program

ClearWater Conservancy awarded \$6,069.50 in funding through its "Connections" program for 831 students from 15 area schools to take part in field trips this fall 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 Nature Center, the children learn about their local natural environment through interactive and hands-on outdoor activities and experiments.

Fall 2011 funding recipients include:

Penns Valley School District:

Centre Hall Elementary, teacher Nancy Johnson, 4th grade, 39 students

Bald Eagle Area School District:

Wingate Elementary, teachers Jodie Franks, Carrie Swanger, Marcy Henninger, 1st grade, 58 students

Bellefonte Area School District:

Bellefonte Elementary, teacher Bradley Treweek, kindergarten, 80 students

Benner Elementary, teacher Lata Anatheswaran, 2nd grade, 39 students

State College Area School District:

Nittany Valley Charter School, teacher Joyce Kreuter, 1st through 8th grades, 48 students

District-wide elementary schools, teacher Marybeth Irvin, 3rd & 4th grades, 529 students

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown:

St. John Catholic School, teacher Kristina Tice, 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades, 38 students

Special thanks to State of the Art, The Hershey Company, the Bellefonte Elks Club and Cliff & Doris Wurster for their donations to support the Connections program in 2011! To donate to this special project, please contact Sarah at (814) 237-0400.

WATERSHED EDUCATION

SCWA hosts two prominent speakers

The Spring Creek Watershed Association offered keynote messages from two prominent leaders in the environmental and watershed arenas early this fall to celebrate their 15th Anniversary.

On Sept. 20, **Caren E. Glotfelty**, director of the Heinz Endowments Environment Program returned to the Spring Creek Watershed Association to share her vision for sustainable communities. Caren has strong ties to the Spring Creek Watershed.

During her tenure as the Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources at Penn State University in the 1990s, she provided critical leadership, establishing a vision for the Spring Creek Watershed. She also served as President of the ClearWater Board of Directors. In 1996,

Caren worked to bring a team of international experts to the community who assessed the Spring Creek Watershed and provided us with a working blueprint for moving towards a more sustainable society.

R. John Dawes, executive director of the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds gave a presentation to the Watershed Association Oct. 18 titled "Pennsylvania's Watershed Successes & A Charge for the Future."

John is a leading voice for enabling watershed organizations to make a difference in their communities. With a strong focus on energizing and catalyzing projects across Pennsylvania's acid-mine drainage devastated areas to restore water quality and ecosystems, John took the message of what is possible in improving watersheds to the World Water Forum held in Stockholm, Sweden in August of 2011.

He returned with a continued conviction that watershed approaches are, in fact, the most effective measures communities can take to protect, restore, and improve local and downstream water quality, economies, and overall quality of life. John shared his observations of and vision for how watershed initiatives are making the difference for Pennsylvania communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH

Wild and Scenic film fest draws a crowd

Attendance nearly tripled when ClearWater Conservancy brought the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival to State College for the third straight year in September.

Hosted by Appalachian Outdoors, the festival was held at the State Theatre in State College.

"This is the first time we have held this event at the State Theatre, and I think it is the right place for it. The atmosphere is perfect, it is close to the PSU campus and people just like to attend events there," said ClearWater Conservancy Executive Director **Jennifer Shuey**. "We will definitely be holding the event at the State in the future and hope to fill the venue with nature-lovers who want to make a difference."

Over 200 people turned out to see 10 films in all: one feature length film and eight shorts selected locally from more than 50 award-winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy, climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture and indigenous cultures.

Guests enjoyed food samples from Tait Farm Foods and a whole host of door prizes. The big winner of the night was Bob Conn of Boalsburg, who won two nights at the Gateway Lodge in Cook Forest.

The Wild and Scenic Film Festival was conceived by a California watershed advocacy group (the South Yuba River Citizens League) in 2003 and has since flourished into the largest film festival of its kind in North America.



Dipak Sahoo, marketing manager at Appalachian Outdoors of State College, talks with an attendee at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in September. Appalachian Outdoors was the lead local sponsor of the event once again in 2011.

Photo by Chris Hennessy

STRIDES FOR NATURE & FAMILY FESTIVAL

Run/Walk and Family Fest held back-to-back for 2011

Two great ClearWater events merged into a day of activity June 18 when the Strides for Nature 5K Run/Walk and Spring Creek Family Festival were held back-to-back at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

Runners and walkers kicked off the day in the morning and the Family Fest ran from late morning to afternoon. The festival, which drew about 600 people, included educational nature and conservation exhibits and hands-on activities by a host of organizations, live music and local food.

Activities for children included a sing-along with Rene' Oakman of Music Together of State College, a nature scavenger hunt, arts and crafts, an aquatic bug hunt, giant bunnies, ambulance tours, animal tracking, rocks and minerals and pressed flower bookmarks and necklaces.

Bluegrass music was provided by the Tussey Mountain Moonshiners and Tolins' Bluegrass Revue. Webster's Café and Gemelli Pizza Oven were on hand with tasty food and drink.

In addition, the Spring Creek Heritage Award, given jointly each year by ClearWater Conservancy and the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, was awarded to local

philanthropist and conservationist Don Hamer for his many efforts over the years to protect and improve Spring Creek.

When the dust settled after the second annual Strides for Nature 5K Run/Walk, 58 runners had crossed the finish line. The top runner was Karl Shellenberger of State College, who finished in 18 minutes, 49 seconds. The top female runner was Meira Minard of State College, who finished in 19 minutes, 14 seconds.

Organizers were pleased to note that the number of race entrants doubled over 2010 figures. Holding the two events on the same day is planned again for June 2, 2012.



Photo By Chris Hennessy

Families gather to decorate fish, tree, and duck-themed cookies with volunteer Diana Watson at the Family Festival.

Primary sponsors for the day were **Sun Directed** (5K) and **Hilton Garden Inn** (Family Fest).

OTTO'S GOLF FEST

8th annual Golf Fest sells out, raises \$63,000 for conservation

ClearWater's annual golf event raised more than \$63,000 this year, an amazing increase of 46 percent over last year!

The money raised on the course on the day of the event, a little over \$10,000, went to conserving 152 acres of land in Galbraith Gap.

The morning and afternoon shotgun starts at the Elks Country Club along the headwaters of Spring Creek in Boalsburg were sold out this year, with 212 golfers hitting the fairways over the course of the day.

Thanks to **Otto's Pub & Brewery**, the **State Col-**

lege Elks and the many other sponsors, donors and volunteers who made this great event possible!

For a complete list of sponsors and donors, go to www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.htm.

Congratulations to the following game and prize winners:

First Place Team with a score of 28: Joe Geise, Joe Sommer, John Gummo, and Andrew Grimm from the Doty & Hensch team

Second Place Team with a score of 36: Chris Magent, Greg Hayes, Dennis Walter, and Mike Scriccia from the Alexander Building Construction team

Third Place Team with a score of 36: Mike Bower, Tom Tobin, Craig Weckerly, and Charlie Capello from the L.F. Driscoll team

Morning Round Low with a score of 36: Chris Magent, Greg Hayes, Dennis Walter, and Mike Scriccia from the Alexander Building Construction team

Straightest Drive: Tom Novitsky

Closest to the Pin: Charlie Baney (Hole in One!)

Ladies' Long Drive: Pam Driftmier

Men's Long Drive: Fred Egerer

Longest Putt: Sally Woods



Photo By Chris Hennessy

Golfers at the 2011 Otto's Golf Fest enjoy some beautiful views at the Elks Country Club in Boalsburg.

To participate in the 2012 Otto's Golf Fest or Spring Creek Family Festival, call 814-237-0400.



Terry Melton brings beauty, education to gardens

By Sinead O'Connor

No other site along North Atherton Street in State College looks quite like the native plant demonstration garden that greets ClearWater Conservancy visitors. The island of beauty surrounding the ClearWater offices is made possible by the hard work and expertise of ClearWater's lead garden volunteer, Terry Melton.

Terry is a Penn State Extension Master Gardener who began volunteering at ClearWater in 2008. Since then, she and fellow Penn State Extension Master Gardeners have used their extensive horticultural knowledge to create and nurture ClearWater's garden, an oasis of plants in a sea of blacktop.

"It's great to have a native environment in an urban setting," Terry said.

Terry's interest in native plants is what drew her to volunteer at ClearWater. In addition to weekly gardening sessions during the planting season, Terry and the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners conduct educational tours of ClearWater's garden throughout the summer. Their fourth and final tour for 2011 took place Sept. 21.

The garden and tours are part of ClearWater's mission of educational outreach to the community.

"I personally identify with ClearWater's mission," Terry said. "Having an educational garden enhances this mission and proves that volunteers can make a difference."

Fellow Master Gardener and ClearWater garden regular Scott Pflumm said he has learned a great deal working with Terry at ClearWater.



Photo By Chris Hennessey

Terry Melton in the native plant demonstration garden at ClearWater's offices on North Atherton Street. Melton has been the lead volunteer on the garden project since its beginnings in 2008.

"Over the past three years Terry has taught those of us who help out with the native plant demonstration gardens how to identify the variety of plants in the gardens and to have a greater appreciation for their ecological value," Pflumm said.

Those that don't pitch in at the gardens can still learn about the native plants growing at ClearWater through an e-newsletter

feature written by Terry. A different flower in the garden is featured with a description and photos in each edition of ClearWater's electronic newsletter during the growing season.

Terry, who holds a PhD. from Penn State, is president and CEO of Mitotyping Technologies in State College.

Sinead O'Connor is a senior public relations major at Penn State and ClearWater Conservancy intern.

FROM THE COVER



Galbraith Gap purchase and transfer complete

◀ *Continued from cover*

arm of the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

The gap serves as the main recreational gateway to Rothrock State Forest for hikers, birdwatchers, mountain bikers, hunters and cross country skiers. Conservation of the parcel provides new and exciting recreational opportunities within a few minutes of State College and its surrounding communities.

"The long-term conservation of this tract ensures it will continue to provide important habitat for wildlife,"

said Jason Albright, district forester for the Rothrock State Forest District.

The 2,400-foot long unnamed tributary to Galbraith Gap Run coursing through the center of the land is now fully protected, as are the eastern hemlocks that cool the water of the tributary with their shade before it reaches Galbraith Gap Run, making it possible for native brook trout to thrive there. Galbraith Gap Run is one of only five remaining in the Spring Creek Watershed with a reproducing wild brook trout population.

Funds for the \$710,000 purchase came from the following sources:

- \$340,000 DCNR grant
- \$200,000 from DCNR Oil and Gas Lease Fund
- \$94,000 National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant
- \$9,000 Huplits Trust grant
- \$2,500 from The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation
- \$10,700 from the 2011 Otto's Golf Fest
- \$10,200 from ClearWater's Fly Fishing Clinic
- \$25,000 matching gift from donor Don Hamer
- \$25,000 in donations from individuals

Routing invasives, planting natives at tree farm

By Chris Hennessey

On a cool fall morning in early October, Jim Mikkelsen wielded his “Weed Wrench” against an army of herbivorous invaders on the banks of Warriors Mark Run at the 151-acre McCorkel Tree Farm in Huntingdon County.

“We are pulling them up, cutting them down and spraying them,” said the wiry, silver-bearded Mikkelsen, leaning on the orange, four-foot-long device he uses to grip the trunk of an invasive plant and lever it, roots and all, from the earth.

Mikkelsen is one member of a clan of families (starting with McCorkel) who have come to the McCorkel Tree farm to relax, get back to nature and spend time together since 1940. He is the first to ever live on the property full-time, and now occupies one of the 13 cabins scattered on the hilltop.

Protected through a ClearWater Conservancy conservation easement since 2008, the McCorkel Tree Farm is now benefitting from a concerted effort by the extended tree farm family to halt the spread of invasive species like autumn olive, privet, garlic mustard, multi-flora rose, Japanese stilt grass and ailanthus and to plant beneficial native species.

With the resident Mikkelsen leading the way and each visitor to the cabins pitching in, progress is being made against the many invasive species growing along Warriors Mark Run, along the two-track driveway through the property and around the cabins.

“We are trying to get everyone to put in 2 or 3 hours per visit,” Mikkelsen said.

Last spring, planting of native species began along Warriors Mark Run. The 185 plantings included 47 American



Photo By Chris Hennessey

Jim Mikkelsen checks the health of riparian plantings along Warriors Mark Run at the McCorkel Tree Farm. So far 185 trees and shrubs have been planted at the Huntingdon County property, and more are planned for 2012.

sycamores, nine tulip poplars, 48 ninebark, 35 black willow, 32 silky dogwood and 14 alternate leaf dogwood.

“The whole goal is to protect the streambank from erosion and provide cover for wildlife,” Mikkelsen said.

Jim McCorkel, son of the founders of McCorkel Tree Farm, Roy and Betty McCorkel, said he believes the land he has enjoyed since childhood, and is now enjoyed by his grandchildren, has benefited from the relationship with ClearWater Conservancy.

“We are really all just delighted that our association with the ClearWater Conservancy has encouraged us to tackle the invasive species and plant some desirable native species to enhance the beauty and wildlife diversity and health of the stream corridor that we so love,” said Jim McCorkel.

Loosestrife management effort a success at Muddy Paws Marsh

◀ *Continued from Page 3*

bio-control method rather than a chemical one. Mark Roberts, state coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, suggested using Galerucella beetles, a natural predator used to control purple loosestrife. Galerucella beetles have been used to successfully control purple loosestrife since the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved their use as a biological control agent in 1992. Roberts was instrumental in planning, organizing and implementing the beetle release.

In fall 2007, 12,000 beetles were released in several places throughout the marsh. The adult beetles eat the loosestrife leaves and lay their eggs. After the eggs hatch the larva make their way down to the soil, eating the leaves and stems as they descend.

By 2010, the beetles and their larva had stopped the spread of the loosestrife. The marsh still has some loosestrife today but now that the population has diminished, the beetles have moved on to other places with loosestrife.

“We know of at least three other wetlands in the area that are benefitting from the

beetles in the same way Muddy Paws has,” Mary Kay said.

Today Muddy Paws Marsh offers visitors a hands-on look at native wetland plants and wildlife. Its educational and recreational benefits would not be possible without the help of the Galerucella beetle.

“They really are lovely little creatures,” Mary Kay said. “They’ve been an enormous help, and now they can do their good elsewhere.”

Sinead O’Connor is a senior public relations major at Penn State and ClearWater Conservancy intern.



Online Community

I have an assignment for each of you, especially those of you who enjoy Facebook and the other social networking sites. Go to <http://clearwater-conservancy.ning.com>. This is ClearWater's brand new Online Community!

It is meant to be different from our regular website, which by the way is also in the process of getting a dramatic facelift. Watch for more to come on that soon. Our new Online Community is intended to stimulate more of a conversation. Members of the site get to post their own conservation-oriented photos and videos, engage in discussions with staff and other members, post upcoming event notices for their other conservation organizations, and generally keep up to date with what is happening in our local conservation circles. It's easy to sign up. Simply go to the site, and follow the directions. Then start poking around and adding your own content. Share your voice.

Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Chris Hennessey has been working with an amazingly talented and generous team of volunteers on our new websites. Scott Woods gets the credit for hooking ClearWater up with the State College Interaction Design Associates, or IxDA, a newly formed group of design professionals who wanted to take on a community service project to get to know each other and give back in a meaningful way to a local nonprofit. We are indebted to the vision and commitment of **Brian Hoffman** (IxDA), **Scott Woods** (West Arete), **Jeff Erickson** (Erickson Strategic), **Dan Rowland** (Rowland Creative), **Bevin Hernandez** (Firebrand Tribe), **Barb Horne** (Ideal Image), and **Matt Hummel** (Red Privet) for redefining ClearWater Conservancy's web presence and helping us to implement it. I've been impressed with the knowledge that each of them brings to the team and with the way they have worked together and with us to understand our needs and find the best way to design a solution.

I would also like to thank and honor a group of very special women who are stepping down from the Board of Directors this year. **Rebecca Dunlap**, **Holly May**, and **Melinda Turner** each brought strong backgrounds in conservation as well as solid leadership and infectious enthusiasm. They will all be missed on the Board. Special good wishes to Holly, her husband Erich and their two boys as they move to the Lehigh Valley and put down new roots.

Finally, our members will soon receive our HOLIDAY fundraising appeal in the mail. Please reflect on your own relationship to the natural world and give generously to ensure our capacity to continue this great work in natural resource conservation, restoration, and education together.

Jennifer Shuey, Executive Director

Part 5 of an Ongoing Series of Financial Tips for our Members Who Wish to Support ClearWater with Longer-Term Donations

Life Insurance

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

You may use your life insurance policy to make a charitable gift at the time of your death. Life insurance policies provide for the naming of beneficiaries who are to be paid the proceeds at the time of your death. One of the beneficiaries to be named in your life insurance policy can be ClearWater Conservancy.

If you do use life insurance to make a charitable gift at the time of your death, the value of the asset is deducted from the value of the gross estate, thereby creating a smaller net estate. The smaller net estate is subject to tax by the federal estate tax, but Pennsylvania does not tax life insurance. Therefore, the savings to the estate is not as great as, for example, naming a beneficiary in an IRA account, but it is still a good way of using assets that are not cash in your estate to help ClearWater.

If you would like information on how to designate a charitable gift to ClearWater Conservancy, please contact Jennifer at (814) 237-0400 or jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org.

All ClearWater members are encouraged to remember ClearWater Conservancy during estate planning. Our goal is to confirm 30 charter members of our new **LISLE Circle** by the end of 2011. 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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EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER TO CONSERVE NATURAL BEAUTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE HEART OF PENNSYLVANIA

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:

Deadline for Tait Farm Foods Holiday Orders Monday November 28

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! Choose from a variety of jams, sauces and gift samplers.

Mail or fax the enclosed order form or download a digital version at clearwaterconservancy.org/events.htm.

For more information *see Page 6 of this newsletter.*



For the Love of Art and Chocolate January 27, 2012

President's Hall, The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, 7 - 9:30 pm

Come join ClearWater for an evening of music, art, and best of all... all the chocolate you care to eat!

For a ticket price of \$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, and the chance to win some fabulous door prizes. All proceeds benefit ClearWater Conservancy.

To purchase tickets in advance call us at (814) 237-0400. Tickets may also be purchased at the door, but advance ticket holders can walk right in.



SAVE THE DATE:

The "Legends" Flyfishing Clinic Saturday, March 31

2012 Watershed Cleanup Day Saturday, April 21

Multiple sites throughout Centre County watersheds

Strides for Nature 5K and Spring Creek Family Festival Saturday, June 2

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center