



Watershed Cleanup Day Kicks off an active Watershed Awareness Month



Volunteers attack the trash at a Moshannon State forest illegal dump.

Watershed Cleanup Day 2002 was a great start to what has been officially designated as Watershed Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. This designation was recently supported locally by the Centre County Commissioners proclamation that May be officially recognized as Watershed Awareness Month. Thank you to the Commissioners for helping to encourage watershed awareness in the county. Almost 300 volunteers from the general public, business and industry, municipal and state agencies, civic and non-profit groups and clubs collected nearly 40 tons of trash in this year's cleanup effort.

The cleanup of the dumpsite on Julian Pike in Moshannon State Forest exemplified the effectiveness of a multi

organizational approach to the illegal dumping problem. Other cleanup sites such as the sinkhole in Centre Hall proved again that local industry's expertise and participation is a vital tool in these efforts. The majority of this year's participants represented small local organizations, clubs, families and individuals — those motivated to return the natural beauty to irresponsibly abused areas.

Dumping in Centre County continues to be a major threat to water quality and the scenic beauty of our countryside. Pesticides and oils have been found at illegal dumpsites, and can contaminate our source of drinking water. Trash dumped on land eventually finds its way to waterways. By working together with the community, we hope that the value in keeping our watersheds clean by disposing of trash appropriately will become common knowledge.

Thank you to the many caring partners that helped to make this year's cleanup a success. Your time and energy spent planning months ahead and participating on that sunny Saturday is proof positive that the illegal dumping and littering habits that plague Centre County can eventually be reversed.

A PERSONAL REFLECTION...

The 2002 Watershed Cleanup was the best ever. I've participated in all of them, in roles ranging from participant, to organizer, to coordinator. This year I participated as a mentor. As part of the Big Brother/Big Sister Program, my husband and I have been paired with two young teenagers for almost a year, sufficient time to establish enough trust to pick the kids up early on a Saturday morning. They were less than enthusiastic about the idea.

After gathering up garbage bags, gloves, and some donuts, we set out along Sinking Creek to clean up the garbage. As we picked, clamoring down the bank for a can or a toaster, wading into the creek for a tire; we talked. We talked about the garbage, who had thrown it there and why. A turtle crawled along the creek bottom and we talked about the animals and birds. Branches snagged our shirts and we talked about the plants and trees. As we tossed beer bottles into our bags, we talked about alcohol, and driving, and underage drinking.

Afterward, both kids offered that they were glad we had cleaned up the garbage. Cleaning up the garbage was the smallest thing I had done that day, sharing the experience with a young person was huge. — *Shana Tritsch*

Calendar

June 5

Wednesday, 7:30–9:00am
ClearWater Conservancy Board of Directors meeting, ClearWater office, 2555 N. Atherton St. Call 237-0400.

June 6

13, 20, 27, Thursdays, 3:00–7:00pm
Discovery Days at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, exploration of the grounds and nature center. No fee, except for the 6 p.m. guided group discovery walk, which costs \$2. Call 231-3071.

June 7

Friday, 12:00noon–1:00pm
Brown Bag Lunch, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, featuring a presentation on the Nittany/Bald Eagle Greenways Study. A \$3 donation is suggested. Call 231-3071.

June 14

Friday, 9:30pm
Skywatch, sponsored by the Central PA Observers Club at Tom Tudek Memorial Park. Call 861-5474.

June 15

Saturday, 9:00am–2:00pm
National Monarch Larval Monitoring Project Volunteer Training Program, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. Learn how you can help monitor the monarch larva population. For all ages; bring a bag lunch. Call 863-2000.

June 19

Wednesday, 7:00–9:00am
Coordinating Committee of the Spring Creek Watershed Community meeting, ClearWater office, 2555 N. Atherton St. Call 237-0400.

June 24

Monday, 9:00–10:00pm
Family Night Hike, Millbrook Marsh, not appropriate for very young children. Fee is \$8 per resident (Centre Region) family and \$12 per nonresident family. Call 231-3071.

June 27

Thursday, 6:45pm
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Open House. Call 231-3071.

June 27

Thursday, 7:30–9:00am
Stewardship and Resources Committee meeting. Call 237-0400.

June 29

Saturday, 1:00–3:00pm
Family Exploration at Millbrook Marsh, for families to explore the marsh, learn about wetlands and their importance, study the stream and its creatures and more. Fee is \$8 per resident (Centre Region) family and \$12 per nonresident family. Call 231-3071.

June 29

Saturday, 8:30am–5:00pm
Family Rock Climbing, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. Bring a family buddy and learn to scale the rocks properly. Rock climbing equipment and instruction provided. Bring a lunch. Meet at Shaver's Creek and carpool to Donation. Cost is \$20 for nonmembers and \$15 for members.

July 31

Wednesday, 5:30pm
DEP Central Penn Watershed Team meeting. Call 570-321-6525.



ClearWater Conservancy

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Watershed Planner: Matt Genchur

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Editor: Tracey Doms
Layout: C Factor

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the ClearWater Conservancy. The mission of ClearWater Conservancy is to promote conservation and the responsible stewardship of the natural and historical resources of Central Pennsylvania by:

- Serving as a land trust
- Maintaining our high quality of life through the implementation of watershed-based planning and the support of watershed-based organizations
- Maintaining a leadership role in the Spring Creek Watershed
- Creating partnerships with government, private enterprise, educational entities, and community-based organizations
- Providing to all community members educational resources and opportunities that promote a positive conservation ethic
- Ensuring sufficient resources to carry out the conservation mission

The ClearWater Conservancy
2555 North Atherton Street, State College, PA 16803
phone 814-237-0400 • www.clearwaterconservancy.org
email: contactus@clearwaterconservancy.org

The ClearWater Conservancy is a nonprofit organization, chartered in 1980, and supported by its membership. All contributions to ClearWater are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. Thank you for your support!

Food Systems and Community: You Make a Difference

On the surface, America's food system looks flawless. At any time of year, at nearly any time of day, we can roam the supermarket aisles, sure to find our favorite foods: Californian garlic, Idahoan potatoes, Canadian tea, Latin American bananas, or German Jellies. But while Americans spend less income on food than those in other industrialized nations, enormous costs lie hidden in the supermarket prices.

Today, while a mere two percent of our fellow citizens still farm, three percent of these farms supply 75% of our food. Startlingly, 90% of our nation's fresh vegetables are grown in California's San Joaquin Valley — 2,500 miles from Centre County. In fact, transporting, packaging, and marketing our food uses nine times as much fossil fuel energy as it takes to produce the food in the first place.

Every time a small or medium farm fails to compete with our nation's large, nationally marketable agri-business farms, the concentration of our food system rises, as do the negative environmental, social, and economic impacts to rural communities. How we — you and I — choose to sustain ourselves through food matters. If you choose Local, hopefully this *Guide to Local Food Produce and Products* will help to make that step an easier one.

Why Buy Local?

■ It's good for our Environment.

Locally-grown produce only travels a few miles — not a thousand — which means cleaner air and water. Keeping local farms in business also preserves fish and wildlife corridors while allowing for natural rates of groundwater recharge.

■ It's good for our Community.

The very nature of a farm maintains our region's pastoral character while its buffering ability delineates our towns and helps to maintain distinct community traditions, lifestyles, and values.

■ It's good for our Local Economy.

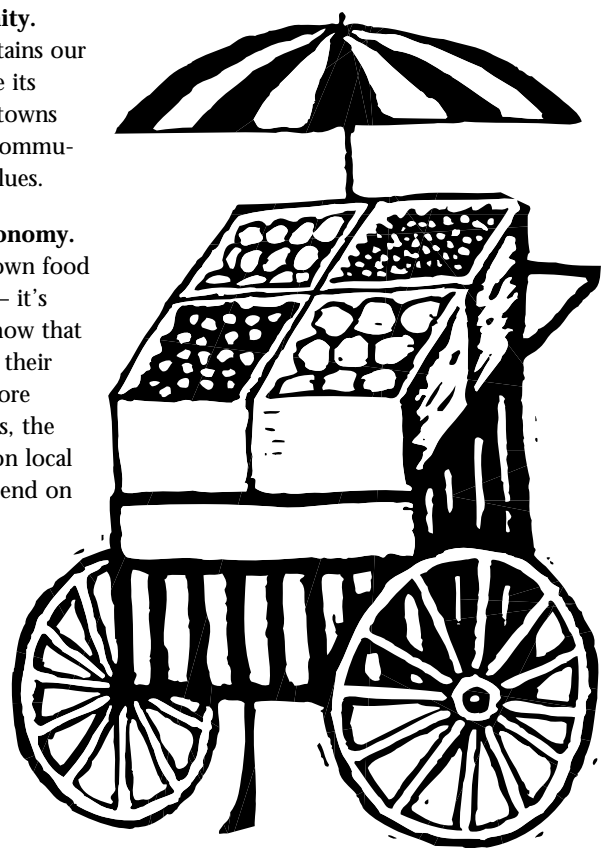
The money spent on locally-grown food can stay in the local economy — it's that simple. New studies also show that tax revenues from farms exceed their need for public services. The more farms there are in our townships, the less the average citizen spends on local taxes, and the more they can spend on local food!

■ It's good for You.

Buying locally-grown food tilts the balance of power in your direction by giving you a more direct connection to your food's source. Freshly picked produce is also unparalleled in freshness and flavor.

A locally grown food guide is now available from the Good Earth Alliance. For more information contact:

The Good Earth Alliance
attn: Austin Mandryk
223 East Park Avenue
State College, PA 16803
goodearth@hotpop.com
814-237-1106



Wish List...

- Long folding table
- Carpet for the conference room and back offices
- Computer
- Computer projection unit
- Large Rubbermaid container with lid
- 2 Paintable windowboxes for our front (8' long) windows
- doormats
- floor fans

Our thanks to...

- Ken Manno, DCNR Forestry, Tait Farm, and Kid's Court for making this year's Alice Beatty memorial Arbor Day tree planting a special event.
- Watershed Cleanup Day Planning Committee and Volunteers.
- Cam Richardson and Courtney Wall for assisting Angie with database and office work.
- Our fabulous group of spring interns: Courtney LaBenne, Stephen Bertolet, Adrienne Asbury, Jamie Yoder, Natalie Reese, Jon Kay, Matt DeCiccio, and Mark Anthony.
- Don Watson and Arian Zarkower for mailing the May *Springs&Sinks* newsletter.
- Barbara Fisher for the filing cabinet to organize our newspaper clippings.

ClearWater Newsbrie

WELCOME TO MATT GENCHUR



Hi, my name is Matt Genchur, and I am the new watershed planner for the Clearwater Conservancy and the Spring Creek Watershed Com-

munity. I believe my education, background and experience have prepared me well for this position. I graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May 2000 with a degree in geography, having completed the school's environmental and GIS tracks. In the fall of 2000, I began a master's degree program at Penn State University's School of Forest Resources. For the past two years, I've been enrolled in the watershed option run through the Center for Watershed Stewardship (CWS).

The CWS trains students in the field of watershed management by giving them hands-on experience in putting together a detailed assessment and plan for a Pennsylvania watershed. Our team just finished a comprehensive plan for the Jacobs Creek watershed in southwestern Pennsylvania. I'll be completing my degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, along with the watershed option, by this August.

I have always had a great appreciation for the outdoors, particularly for water. I recognize that working in the Spring Creek watershed carries with it a high level of responsibility. Spring Creek is well known in Pennsylvania as high-quality trout stream, and it is highly valued by the local community for its aesthetics and recreational opportunities. I recognize that the watershed is under increasing pressure as the population in the State College area continues to grow. With this in mind, I look

forward to working with the municipalities and communities comprising the watershed in creating a plan that will protect the unique environment and beauty of Spring Creek and that will enhance the quality of life of watershed residents for many years to come.

BROWN BAG LUNCHES

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center presents its popular brown bag lunch series again this year. The first Friday each month throughout the summer will be dedicated to interesting topics with an environmental theme. Please see the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Summer Leisure Guide or the website www.CentreConnect.org/crpr for more details.

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS WANTED

A new volunteer option is available to senior residents of Centre County. A Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps has been organized as a cooperative project of the Centre County Office of Aging, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Centre County Conservation District.

The primary focus of the PaSEC is stream monitoring. This effort is being coordinated with Spring Creek's Water Resources Monitoring Project. For more information on getting involved, call Amidea Daniel at 355-6817.

SUPPORT GROWING GREENER

Please continue to call your legislators to tell them how much the state Growing Greener grants have meant to ClearWater and the community.

Growing Greener has funded many of our successful projects, including our Outreach and Education program, components of the Spring Creek Watershed Community's Water Resources Monitoring Project, the Spring Creek Watershed educational website, the Spring Creek Watershed Plan assessment phase and GIS mapping for the Vision 2020 project. The legislators need to hear from individuals like you to understand the importance of reauthorizing this critical piece of legislation.

VISION 2020 INFO AVAILABLE

Vision 2020 Living with I-99 Land Use and Sustainability Plans and summary packets are available throughout the community and at the ClearWater office. Please check them out and encourage your municipal officials to use the tools to guide their development decisions. We are pleased to see that the Vision 2020 recommendations are already being used to inform the critical planning effort that is going on at the county level — the update of the Centre County Comprehensive Plan.

LOOKING FOR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Our Board of Directors has embarked upon our Business membership campaign for 2002. Each director has taken on the challenge of meeting with 10 local businesses and asking them to consider supporting the efforts of ClearWater through a business membership. Help make their job easier by talking to your business associates about the good work that ClearWater is doing in the community.

efs:

HELP NEEDED AT MILITARY MUSEUM

The restored meadow at the Military Museum is growing, and, of course, so are the weeds! Help give the native plants a chance to establish themselves. Anyone interested in a day in the sun removing invasive species should let us know.

We are also looking for volunteers interested in being trained as “tour guides” who would be available on-site when we expect lots of visitors to the Military Museum grounds (Memorial Day, People’s Choice Arts Festival, etc.). The interpretive panels should be installed in June; check them out!



Getting our feet wet. A team of brave people, mostly members of the Stewardship and Resources Committee, met at Millbrook Marsh on a rainy evening on Monday, May 13 to perform the annual easement monitoring. Ron Woodhead (second from left), Director of Centre Region Parks and Recreation and Greg Roth (fourth from right), Parks Supervisor, provided helpful information about current and future plans in and around the marsh.

Connections Spring Trips Under Way

The Spring Connections trips are under way, thanks to funding received from the Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener program.

The Connections program allows local school districts to transport students to a variety of environmental field trip locations, such as Spring Creek Park, Bald Eagle State Park and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. If transportation money already is available through the school districts, Connections funds can be used for other costs associated with these programs, such as the \$3.50 per student fee to attend Millbrook Marsh, or even equipment to use in the classroom to prepare the students for their in-field experience. The curricula at these learning sites vary, but one thing is

consistent: The children have the opportunity to experience hands-on environmental education that is specific to their region.

In April, ClearWater employees Jason Bell and Lynn Fosbender attended the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of State Parks Watershed Education training at RB Winter State Park. The information taught at the workshop will allow ClearWater to provide preparatory programs that are consistent with those being offered at Pennsylvania state parks.

The Connections program teaches students basic watershed concepts, as well as macroinvertebrate identification, stream assessments and local impacts on water quality. These programs are designed to instill awareness and an appreciation for our water-

ways, as well as introduce the “we all live downstream” concept. The students, of course, are naturally excited, as they are in field trip mode, making these experiences fun and gratifying.

The State Education and Environment Roundtable, a cooperative endeavor of 16 states’ education agencies that seeks to improve student achievement through EIC (using the Environment as an Integrating Context for learning), has found that hands-on environmental education helps improve standard test scores in science and math, and has also improved discipline in some cases. For more information about the roundtable (which included Pennsylvania) and its research on the importance of environmental education in public schools, go to www.seer.org.

Celebrating Trees with Children

On April 26, the weather provided a spectacular day for the Alice Beatty Memorial Tree Planting, a ClearWater Arbor Day tradition.

This year's planting and presentation took place at Kids Court Children's Learning Center in State College. Outreach Coordinator Jason Bell introduced the children to the history of Arbor Day. The children, ages 3 to elementary school age, were very interested in the history of "tree day"; much of that credit going to the staff of Kid's Court for preparing the children for the day's activities.

Ken Manno of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania gave a fabulous presentation describing why trees are important to us. The children were amazed that some of the articles being pulled out of Ken's brown bag were produced from trees. The children had many comments of their own, from "My mommy has a tree," to one bright lad (a young arborist-to-be, perhaps) who explained how trees need sunlight to help feed them so they can grow.

A sugar maple was donated to the day-care center, and everyone present helped with a ceremonial shovel load of dirt. The sugar maple (or the "maple syrup tree," as referred to by a few young breakfast fans)

was purchased through the Alice Beatty Memorial Tree Planting fund.

The children were also given white pine seedlings, donated by John Tait from Tait Farms. In addition, the children received spruce seed packets, and the school was given a teacher manual on conducting an in-school tree-planting program. Penn's Nurseries, a division of the DCNR Department of Forestry, donated these items. The Penn State University Department of Agriculture donated books titled, "Planting Trees in Your Community," including activities for the whole family. Ken Manno also provided "Forests Are Our Friends" coloring books to go with crayons and stickers from ClearWater.

The ClearWater Conservancy appreciated the opportunity to share our love of trees with these young children and their teachers and administrators. Their enthusiasm and intrigue left the impression that the day's activities will not be forgotten soon. A special thank you to R.J. Sabol of Anteros Group for volunteering time and equipment in digging the hole prior to the activities.

Kid's Court students proudly show their seedlings presented to them on Arbor Day.



Quilt Raffle for the Stan Yoder Memorial Preserve

A quilt made by Polly Miller and Bonnie Hutchinson of the Stan Yoder Memorial Preserve Committee will be raffled off through August to raise funds needed for the purchase of the Preserve, located on West Main Street in Boalsburg.

The quilt will be on display at various places including the Leo Kottke concert, the Peoples' Choice Arts Festival and the Harris Township Municipal Building. Tickets can be purchased at the ClearWater office. Call 237-0400 for more information.

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

By Lynn Fosbender

This year's Mother's Day Wildflower Walk drew a crowd of about a dozen to Spring Creek near Benner Spring, despite stormy weather. The rainy, gray skies broke just long enough for us to climb a wooded bluff and back down along Spring Creek with our knowledgeable guides, Bob Gruver and George Hildenbrandt.

Along the way, Bob and George pointed out dozens of beautiful wildflowers. We were delighted by, among others, the understated yet striking flowers of jack-in-the-pulpit, the dainty rue anemone, and the red flowers of the columbine plants that clung to the limestone cliffs. Before retreating to the warmth and dryness of our cars, a few of us stayed to cheer on the trout struggling to make their way through the rushing water to jump the small dam just downstream of our meeting point.

For nearly two decades, ClearWater Conservancy has celebrated Mother's Day with the community with the Wildflower Walk. Founding members George Beatty and his late wife, Alice Beatty, began leading groups on this walk along Spring Creek in 1984. Rockview State Correctional Institute and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission cooperate with ClearWater Conservancy to allow us on this lovely and otherwise inaccessible stretch along Spring Creek.



Hello, friends!

I had the opportunity recently to participate in an excellent nonprofit summit in Pittsburgh. Nonprofit leaders from throughout southwestern Pennsylvania gathered to discuss the current state of the nonprofit industry, to learn new ideas to put into practice at home and to share their experiences with other community leaders.

The tips, techniques, and technologies that I picked up were wonderful, but the most rewarding aspect of the summit was interacting with other dedicated and passionate nonprofit leaders. Building organizational capacity seemed to be the theme of the day. Nonprofits are striving to improve their performance, efficiency, and transparency by:

- Recognizing that people matter most. The quality of the staff, leadership, board and volunteers is critical to an organization's success.
- Developing a leadership core. In reality, the most effective organizations are not led by one mythic leader but by a group of ordinary people who are extraordinarily committed to the mission.
- Measuring our success. And then articulating it to the public.
- Committing to persevering. It's not an easy business that we are in. We continue to do what we do because we believe in the cause.

These key concepts are at the heart of ClearWater's dedication to continual improvement. I am proud to work with outstanding volunteers and staff who are always finding better ways to do things. A diverse array of organizational improvements are currently taking place at ClearWater, including improvements to funding diversification, cost allocation, media and public relations, internship and volunteer recruitment, database management, board leadership development and strategic planning. Believe me, the list goes on.

If you are not actively involved with ClearWater right now, I invite you to share your talents with us. We can use all the help we can get to make the ClearWater Conservancy the best that it can be.

Peace be with you,

Jennifer

If you know someone who would like to become a ClearWater member, or if you need to renew your own membership, please fill out the information below, and mail to: ClearWater Conservancy, 2555 North Atherton Street, State College, PA 16803.

Membership Level

- Life Member \$1,000
- Patron \$500
- Sponsor \$250
- Friend \$100
- Supporter \$50
- Contributor \$35

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Payment

- Check *Make check payable to ClearWater Conservancy*
- Visa MasterCard *Complete information below*

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Signature _____

Membership Level

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- Leader \$2,500
- Steward \$1000
- Grand Patron \$750
- Patron \$500
- Sponsor \$250
- Friend \$100

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Contact _____

Payment

- Please bill every: 3 months 6 months
- Check *Make check payable to ClearWater Conservancy*
 - Visa MasterCard *Complete information below*

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Signature _____

The ClearWater Conservancy
2555 North Atherton Street
State College, PA 16803
phone: 814-237-0400
www.clearwaterconservancy.org

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June 2002

*Please check the date
on your mailing label.*

*It is the date that your
ClearWater membership expires.*

We'd hate to lose you!

ClearWater News

Volunteers needed!

- To organize our newspaper clipping archive
- To remove invasive species (pull weeds) at the Spring Creek restoration site at the PA Military Museum
- To help plan Spring Creek Day in September
- To be trained as restoration site tour guides for special event days at the PA Military Museum
- To assist with office work
- To prepare the layout, graphics and photos for "The History of the ClearWater Conservancy"
- To help plan next year's Chocolate Party. We tentatively plan to incorporate an environmental art show or auction next year. If you have a specific talent or experience in this arena and would like to help, please let Jason know.



***Pictures from the
2001 Spring Creek
Day.***

