



Let It Rain

The annual event seemed to be serendipitous in a way. Gather together local environmental organizations, interested community members, and a little music and food, and like magic, the skies pour. Perhaps a Spring Creek Day every Sunday would help.

By Jason Bell, Outreach Coordinator

"Let it rain" became the theme for this year's 20th Annual Spring Creek Day. While most outdoor-event planners keep their fingers crossed for sunny blue skies, we at ClearWater felt that with all things considered, a rainy Spring Creek Day, or any rainy day for that matter, would be a cause for celebration.

Spring Creek Day and the picnic that followed managed to escape the heavy showers that began minutes after the last vehicle pulled away from the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. The annual event seemed to be serendipitous in a way. Gather together local environmental organizations, interested community members, and a little music and food, and like magic, the skies pour. Perhaps a Spring Creek Day every Sunday would help...

The atmosphere was fun and informative at Spring Creek Day 2002. Some new additions to the annual event were a raffle, with items generously donated by local organizations and businesses, food for sale benefiting ClearWater Conservancy, and live pottery production. In addition, this year's musical entertainment featured Original Soul Project, an all-original local band whose upbeat music added great energy to the day.

The edible earth parfaits were once

again a big hit with kids and adults alike. Where else can you learn about our unique limestone geology and its potential for groundwater contamination using a create-your-own ice cream soda as a model? Another highlight of Spring Creek Day was the guided tour of the Millbrook Marsh along the brand new

boardwalk. Many visitors explored parts of the Marsh that they had never seen before, much to their interest and delight.

Following the event, the traditional Spring Creek Day picnic provided an opportunity for ClearWater supporters to socialize and enjoy a great spread of food. The new picnic pavilion was filled to capacity, but the hardy souls in the open air seemed to welcome the light sprinkles that signaled the end of this year's celebration.

Our thanks go to the many that made this year's event a success: organizations that came out to share their environmental messages, volunteers who put together thoughtful and creative children's events and activities suited for the whole family, contributors of food and prizes, and the staff and volunteers who helped keep the day running smoothly.

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Calendar

October 10

Thursday, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Outreach Committee

October 15

Tuesday, 7:00 – 9:00 am
Spring Creek Watershed Community Coordinating Committee

October 18

National Water Monitoring Day in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

October 18

Friday, 7:30 – 9:00 am
Executive Committee

October 22

Tuesday, 5:30 pm
Spring Creek Watershed Commission, Willowbank Building, Bellefonte

October 24

Thursday, 7:30 – 9:00 am
Stewardship and Resources Committee

October 29

Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Centre County Solid Waste Interpretive Center. DEP Stream Assessment Elected Officials Forum

October 30

DEP Central Penn Watershed Team Meeting

November 7

Farm City Banquet. Contact Centre County Conservation District at 355-6817

November 12

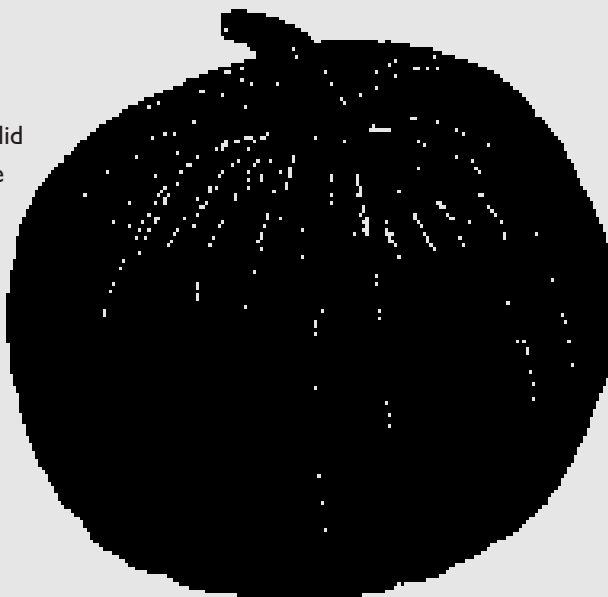
Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology
DEP Stream Assessment Public Meeting

November 16

Saturday, 9:30 – 12:30 pm
PA Land Trust Association
Regional Gathering Montour Preserve

November 21

Thursday, 6:00 pm
ClearWater Conservancy Annual Membership Meeting, Logan Grange, Pleasant Gap. \$12 Tickets, RSVP 237-0400



ClearWater Conservancy

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NEWS STAFF

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!

Let It Rain *continued*

Continued from page 1

Please support the businesses and organizations that are listed below and let them know that ClearWater is very thankful for their contributions.

OUR THANKS:

Planning, setup, and volunteer staffing

- ClearWater Outreach Committee
- Millbrook Marsh Nature Center
- Students from the AT&T Center for Service Leadership at PSU:
Kevin Collison
Jeffrey Brown
David Bisor
Kaitlin Chrobocinski
Ryan Griffin
Lindsey Dickey
Dan Gregory
- Christian Bechdel
- Don and Diana Watson
- Chris Shuey
- Christine Vignale
- Beth Bogden
- Jim McClure
- Ron Woodhead
- Nancy Desmond

Donations

- Wiscoy Pet Food Co, Tait Farm Foods, Blackhawk Homestead Nursery, Nittany Wildlife Refuge, and Creative Oasis — raffle items
- Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. — bottled water
- Wegmans — picnic food
- Giant — picnic supplies

Displays

- Nittany Wildlife Refuge
- Centre County Conservation District
- Centre County Planning Office
- Spring Creek Watershed Commission
- Converse Consultants
- US Filter
- Centre Region Parks and Recreation
- League of Women Voters of Centre County

- Penn State Center for Sustainability
- Spring Creek Watershed Community
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Bald Eagle Archaeological Society

Activities

- Creative Oasis — art activities
- Shana Tritsch & Ann Donovan — edible earth parfaits
- Gil Hirschel — history of the Susquehanna River basin
- Molly Hetrick — Millbrook Marsh boardwalk tour
- Bald Eagle Archaeological Society — archaeological dig

Thanks also to:

- Fat Jack's BBQ Shack & Purple Rose Café for the delicious catered food at such a good price
- Original Soul Project for bringing your unique musical talent to Spring Creek Day
- Best Event Rental for the discount on the party rental equipment
- Centre Daily Times for the great article in the Weekender
- WPSU & Forever Broadcasting for the public service announcements



ClearWater Newsbrief

PRO BONO SERVICES NEEDED FOR LAND PROTECTION EFFORTS

Landowners interested in donating conservation easements* are often surprised when they are told about the expenses involved. Unfortunately, land trusts such as ClearWater Conservancy rarely have the resources to pay for the expenses associated with acquiring easements. Land trusts typically expect the landowner to cover these expenses, which commonly becomes a barrier to easement donation. ClearWater Conservancy is looking for **surveyors, environmental specialists, and real estate appraisers** interested in donating services once or twice a year when the opportunity to acquire an easement arises.

When a landowner donates a conservation easement, many of the legal steps involved require the services of professionals. To donate an easement, a survey is required if the boundaries are unclear to protect the property against any dispute by adjacent landowners. The survey also may be used to delineate the easement, if the easement boundary differs from the property boundary. Also, an environmental site assessment is required to determine whether any hazardous materials are present on the property. This protects the easement holder (ClearWater Conservancy) from environmental liability. The landowner may be able to receive tax benefits through the donation of the easement. To receive tax benefits, an appraisal is required to determine the amount of the tax deduction. The deduction is equal to the difference between the appraised value before the easement and the appraised value with the easement.

With the help of professional surveyors, environmental specialists, and real

estate appraisers, the cost to the easement donor would be reduced. By reducing barriers to easement donation, we will be able to move forward with our conservation mission by protecting ecologically, historically, and culturally important places. Those interested in donating services should please contact Lynn at 237-0400 or by email at lynn@clearwaterconservancy.org.

**Conservation Easement: A legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust in which the landowner continues to own and use his/her land, but agrees to limit certain activities deemed potentially harmful to the conservation values present on the property. Examples of some commonly restricted activities include subdivision, building structures, logging, and mining. As a result, the conservation values present on the land (whether they are ecological, historical, cultural, etc.) are protected in perpetuity while the landowner is able to continue using the land. The easement is recorded with the deed, and remains in effect regardless of future changes in ownership.*

WALKING THE WALK UPDATE

In the August issue of ClearWater News, we featured plans for a new ClearWater project called "Conservation Techniques for Watershed-Wise Backyards and Businesses." This project will demonstrate techniques that can be used by landowners to conserve water and reduce non-point source pollution while increasing wildlife habitat on their property.

In late September, we received notice that we have been approved for a grant from Canaan Valley Institute that will partially fund the project. With this funding, we can begin work on the project this fall.

If you are interested in volunteering

for this project, we need people for such tasks as acquiring plants and landscape materials, researching environmentally-friendly materials for an ADA-compliant walkway, constructing the walkway, coordinating volunteers, planting, organizing workshops, and creating educational materials. To be on the volunteer list for this project, contact Lynn at 237-0400 or at lynn@clearwaterconservancy.org. For more details on this project and volunteer opportunities, see our website at www.clearwaterconservancy.org.

THE NITTANY AND BALD EAGLE VALLEYS GREENWAY PLAN

The Nittany and Bald Eagle Valleys Greenway Plan, which was initiated by the Centre County Commissioners and the Spring Creek Watershed Commission, made significant progress in 2001. Covering one fourth of the County's land area, the study area starts from the Spring Creek headwaters along Tussey Mountain through State College, Bellefonte, and Milesburg and ends at the Bald Eagle State Park and Sayers Lake near Howard and the Beech Creek watershed. The Greenways study area also makes an important impact because it is home to 80% of Centre County residents and is intended to identify open space, conservation, and recreational connections for potential preservation in this fast growing area of the County.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is providing \$30,000 towards the project. The Centre County Community Foundation through the ClearWater Conservancy, is contributing a \$5,000 grant for the project as well. The remaining funds are being provided by the Centre County Commissioners. The entire project cost is \$60,000 with the Centre Regional Planning Agency and the Centre County Planning Office pro-

efs:

viding staff support to the selected consulting team of Yost, Strodoski, Mears; Bloss Associates; Toole Recreation Planning; Strauss and Associates; and Rettew Associates Inc.

Public Participation is a key component of the project

A study committee known as the Greenway Advisory Committee (GAC) was formed to guide the development of the Greenway Plan. Currently, there are over 70 members from various agencies, organizations, municipalities, and individuals on the GAC Committee.

Principles guiding the vision for the Greenway

- Incorporate the watershed of the Nittany and Lower Bald Eagle Valleys
- Follow natural corridors including the Spring and Bald Eagle Creeks, their tributaries and ridge tops
- Include manmade linear features such as railways, roads, utility corridors, and rights-of-way to establish linkages
- Connect and protect areas and resources that are of value to the community and distinguish the Nittany and

Lower Bald Eagle Valleys as a special place to live, work, or visit. These include the natural landscape, cultural and heritage sites, parks, schools, population centers, and places of commerce.

Recommendations from the Draft Plan

- Continue of the Greenway Advisory Committee and develop a County-wide greenway plan
- Designate a full time professional position dedicated to greenway and open space planning and implementation
- Establish a County Parks Department
- Develop a financial strategy for capital projects that would include greenways and open space protection
- Provide funding for an additional planning position that would be for greenways and open space planning
- Provide funding for marketing and outreach
- Provide funding to establish a County Parks Department
- Provide funds for open space preservation, land acquisition, and capital development
- Develop a Greenway Master Plan for the Curtin Village to Bald Eagle State Park segment of the Bald Eagle Major Corridor

For more information on the Nittany/Bald Eagle Greenways Study, visit www.co.centre.pa.us

CENTRAL PENN WATERSHED TEAM

The Central Penn Watershed Team is

composed of representatives from watershed associations and government from throughout Central Pennsylvania. Participants gather each quarter from the Penns Valley Conservation Association, the Beech Creek Watershed Association, the Sugar Valley Watershed Association, and our own Spring Creek Watershed Community. Organized by the DEP, the focus of the Team is on partnership building and action planning. By prioritizing critical actions at the grassroots level, DEP hopes to channel the resources of its Growing Greener program to the people, projects, and programs that will result in the most significant positive change for the environment. For more information about DEP's Environmental Futures Planning Process or the various watershed teams throughout the state visit the DEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/efp2/default.htm.

The next Central Penn Watershed team meeting is scheduled for October 30th. The meeting is being co-sponsored by the Clearwater Conservancy and will be held in the Interpretive Center at the Centre County Solid Waste Authority

The main topic for the meeting is a review of the environmental priorities that the group developed last October. The Team will evaluate the list and determine whether modifications or additions need to be made to the priorities for the upcoming year. We will also discuss the progress we have made in addressing these issues over the past year, and what remains to be done.

Central Penn Watershed Team Priorities

1. Provide incentives for establishing riparian buffers
2. Provide stream bank fencing and protective cattle passes in agricultural areas
3. Develop a water monitoring network for the entire watershed that measures water quality and quantity
4. Reduce acid mine drainage in the Beech Creek basin
5. Emphasize watershed-wide planning for stormwater management
6. Support conservation easements and land purchases to protect stream corridors

Please contact ClearWater Conservancy with your suggestions for what needs addressed in our area.

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

Article I, Section 27, Pennsylvania Constitution

Remembering Roger Pennock Jr.

April 4, 1923 – June 14, 2002

By Barbara Fisher

How did ClearWater establish its identity and become successful? Early on our roots were in the dedicated hands of a small board of directors who carefully nurtured and firmly guided our path while looking ahead at the big picture and the future.

Roger Pennock left us a legacy through his deep appreciation for our soils and conservation of farmland, a sense of enthusiasm for learning, and a gentle spirit of cooperation mixed with warm fellowship. Serving early on as a director from 1980–1986, he helped assemble displays on stormwater, gave programs, led us on hikes, and attended and supported many events.

He and his wife Libby gave up their autumn photography trip to help coordinate the volunteers at our first Chocolate Party fundraiser. Our files are filled with their splendid photographs that captured much of our history.

Roger was a consummate educator, and he listened more than he lectured. While on the Penn State faculty from 1964–1990, his door was always open to the students. From 1967–72 he and Libby lived in Pune, India, where Roger served as a soil and water specialist working on an AID, PSU project on food production.

A much-loved teacher and advisor, he coached the PSU soil judging team for many years. He was selected by the Golden Key National Honor Society in 1981 to receive the Outstanding Penn State Faculty Award and in 1984 was given Penn State's Amoco Foundation's Outstanding Teaching Award. In 1986 he was the first to be named Penn State's Teaching Fellow for Excellence in Teaching by the Alumni Students.

Roger also won national and international awards for his photography. He and Libby were active members of the State College Slide Club. With the help of many of the club members, they produced an outstanding 60-minute slide show about Pennsylvania. It was previewed in our community before being presented in Pittsburgh. It has now been dedicated in his memory.

His son Rob speaks about the last time Roger taught as a guest lecturer in his environmental ethics course at the University of Texas. The class was so appreciative, they each personally wrote how he had helped to reach them. One of his tributes includes a Chinese saying "Who teaches me for a day, is my father of a lifetime."

How fortunate our conservancy was to have the warmth, caring, and vision of this loyal founder! The world was his garden and his photographs reflect that he was totally at one with nature. Such is our blessing and inspiration!

Nature photography by Roger Pennock Jr.



Our thanks to...

ClearWater Conservancy would like to say "thanks" to all of those who helped remove invasive plants from the stream restoration project at the Pennsylvania Military Museum. We removed huge amounts of thistle, teasel, ragweed, prickly lettuce, and spotted knapweed from the streamside where native meadow plants, shrubs, and trees were planted last fall. These efforts help the native plants get established without competition from aggressive plants. Congratulations to the volunteers who are responsible for keeping the invasive plants in check!

- Laura Dininni
- Mary Eagleton
- Matt Erb
- David Fox
- Devon Marshall
- Brian McCullough
- Jeremy Packer
- Angela Phelps
- Tim Phelps
- Rob Shannon
- Chris Shuey
- Samantha Stedford
- Shana Tritsch
- David Whiteman
- Burell Whitworth
- Doug Wion
- Lou and Stephanie

A NOTE FROM JEN



Hello, friends!

Did you know that land trusts are actively working in 53 counties in Pennsylvania? They own 35,000 acres of land, protect 88,000 acres through conservation easements, and have acquired and transferred another 209,000 acres of land to other organizations for protection. 86,000 Pennsylvanians count themselves as members of land trusts.

I received this information from the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, an organization that promotes Land Conservation through Cooperation throughout the state. As a new PALTA Board member, I am finding it very interesting to learn about our fellow land trusts. There are a few big conservancies, a whole lot of little land trusts, and a couple of organizations like ClearWater, who are sitting right in the middle. Even though we have a variety of unique differences, there is definitely one thing we all have in common: a passion for land conservation.

As ClearWater continues to strengthen its land protection program, I will have the opportunity to interact with my fellow Board members and share in their wealth of experiences. In the process, others will learn from ClearWater's understanding of land protection as it relates to watershed stewardship. This connection between land and water seems to be an important future direction for Pennsylvania land trusts.

Currently, ClearWater protects 525 acres of land through conservation easements. The names of the properties are familiar if you have been following our progress over the years: Rhoneymeade, Nittany Farms, Millbrook Marsh, and the Thompson Woods Preserve. We also own a particularly rare and sensitive 5-acre piece of the Millbrook Marsh known as the fen. As ClearWater builds on its successes in the coming years, we intend to actively pursue the creation of the "ribbon of green" along Spring Creek and its tributaries and protect other critical lands for watershed protection.

We are seeking the resources to build our capacity in our land protection program. Using the Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory, the Nittany and Bald Eagle Greenways Plan, and the Vision 2020 Critical Lands Analysis, we will continue to set our priorities for action and protect our valuable open space resources.

To get involved in this exciting area of our mission, please contact Lynn Fosbender, our Land Protection Coordinator. Our volunteer Stewardship and Resources Committee, led by Brian McCullough, welcomes your input and support.

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

- Visionary \$5,000
- 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

Non-Profit Organization

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State College, Pennsylvania

Permit Number 239

October 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!

Volunteers are needed to help plan the Clearwater fundraiser to be held in January. The annual Chocolate Party will have a new feature: Nature Art. An art show and auction will take place along with the Chocolate Party. Clearwater is looking for volunteers to help plan this new fundraiser. Artists are welcome to submit a sample of their work to Jason at Clearwater to be juried into the show.

