



Riparian Buffers Focus ClearWater Activities

Several recent and upcoming ClearWater projects highlight the importance of riparian buffers to the overall health of Spring Creek and its tributaries, including the stream restoration at the Pennsylvania Military Museum, the Conservation Techniques for Watershed-Wise Backyards and Businesses demonstration at the ClearWater office, and a new Riparian Conservation Program targeted to several impaired segments of Spring Creek. These on-the-ground initiatives trace their origins to the Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan (also known as the Spring Creek Corridor Study, phases I and II) that encourages the conservation of riparian areas to protect the health and biodiversity of the watershed.

These projects were developed to implement the goals of the Rivers Conservation Plan's stream conservation corridor and demonstrate to the community the benefits of maintaining, supplementing, or creating riparian buffers. Specifically, riparian buffers can decrease nutrient and sediment loading; minimize thermal pollution, especially during critical seasonal periods; mediate increased stormwater discharge by promoting infiltration in riparian areas; promote plant and animal species diversity, high quality habitat, and habitat connectivity; promote scenic and recreational opportunities; and encourage visual access to the stream.

Military Museum Riparian Buffer

Completed in the fall of 2001, the stream restoration and riparian meadow plantings at the Military Museum are now starting their second growing season. Energetic volunteer teams will be meeting at the site each second Tuesday evening and fourth Saturday morning throughout the summer to monitor the meadow for invasive plant species and remove them before they overwhelm the native meadow species.

After a few years of tender loving care, the native species will soon be able to out-compete the invasives and start to flourish. In time, the larger trees along the restored stream banks will grow to shade the stream and supplement the riparian meadow, forming a buffer that will reduce the stream temperature, filter stormwater runoff, provide wildlife habitat, and enhance the beauty of the Military Museum grounds.

More volunteers are needed to help care for this restored riparian buffer. Please call for information or simply join us at the work-days with tools, gloves, and plenty of water!

Watershed-Wise Demonstration

One of the components of our new Conservation Techniques for Watershed-Wise Backyards and Businesses is the creation of a bioswale to capture and filter urban stormwater runoff from Atherton Street and the parking lot at the ClearWater office. We are hoping to demonstrate to urban landowners that riparian buffer principles can be applied even in areas not directly adjacent to streams.

During heavy rainfalls, water drains toward our streams in swales, drainage ditches, and low areas. These can be planted with water-tolerant native vegetation to slow the water and filter any pollutants that the rain accumulates as it washes over roofs, parking lots, roads, and lawns. These bioswales may also serve as urban wildlife habitat, offering the landowner a diverse and evolving landscape that can be as beautiful as it is practical.

Riparian Conservation Program

This fall, ClearWater hopes to receive grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener



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after one year's growth last summer.

Calendar

Monthly Meetings

ClearWater Board of Directors
1st Thursday, 7:30 – 9 am

Spring Creek Watershed Community
Coordinating Committee
3rd Tuesday, 7 – 9 am

Outreach Committee
3rd Thursday, 4:30 – 6 pm

Stewardship & Resources Committee
4th Thursday, 7:30 – 9 am

Spring Creek Watershed Commission
4th Tuesday, 5:30 – 8 pm

Special Opportunities

June 6, 10 am - 6 pm

June 7, 9 am - 3 pm

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal, Centre County Solid Waste Authority, contact (814) 238-7005

June 7, 11 am – 4 pm

Susquehanna River Celebration, City Island, Harrisburg, contact (717) 545-8878

June 11, 5:30 – 7 pm

Watershed-Wise Demonstration Project meeting, contact lynn@clearwaterconservancy.org

June 11

Pasture Walk, Alvin Stoltzfus farm, Marion Township, Centre County Conservation District, (814) 355-6817

June 12, 7:30 pm

Adventures in Conservation Program, *Our Paradise*, by local author Jeff Deitrich, State College Borough building

July 19, 9 am - 6 pm

PA Invertebrate Biodiversity Project Conference, PSU Ag Science and Industry (ASI) Building, (814) 865-2863

July 31, 5 pm

DEP Central Penn Watershed Team Meeting, Sieg Conference Center, contact mwelch@state.pa.us

July 31, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

CBICC Business After Hours at ClearWater Conservancy... featuring our new *Conservation Techniques for Watershed Wise Backyards and Businesses Demonstration Project!*

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to help with the removal of non-native invasive plants at the Spring Creek stream and riparian restoration project at the PA Military Museum in Boalsburg. This group will learn to properly identify and remove non-native plants. If you are interested in leading or being part of this team, please contact Lynn at 237-0400 or lynn@clearwaterconservancy.org.

Workdays are scheduled for the second Tuesdays and first Saturdays of the summer months and will be cancelled if it rains.

June 10, 7 - 8:30 pm

June 28, 9 - 11 am

July 8, 7 - 8:30 pm

July 26, 9 - 11 am

Wish List

Dehumidifier for basement

Bird bath for wildlife habitat garden

Small hand tools (hammer, screwdrivers, etc.) for small office repairs

Carpet and installation for our conference room

Woodworker to help us make signs



ClearWater Conservancy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ed Dunkelberger, First Vice President
Christopher Finton, Second Vice President
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Ellie Beaver	Patrick Morse	EX-OFFICIO
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STAFF

Executive Director: Jennifer Shuey
Administrative Assistant: Angela Mitchell
Watershed Coordinator: Katie Ombalski
Land Protection Coordinator: Lynn Fosbender
Watershed Planner: Matt Genchur

ClearWater News is published bimonthly by ClearWater Conservancy. The mission of ClearWater is to promote 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

ClearWater Conservancy

2555 North Atherton Street, State College, PA 16803
(814) 237-0400 www.clearwaterconservancy.org
contactus@clearwaterconservancy.org

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!

A Note from your President - *Brian McCullough*

This issue of *ClearWater News* focuses on riparian buffers and some of the other conservation tools and techniques that ClearWater uses to protect and preserve our most important natural resources.

On more than one occasion, I've watched people's eyes glaze over as I launch into a discussion of the importance of riparian buffer zones. I think the word "riparian" is often unfamiliar to many laypeople, and when they hear it, they immediately think that they're about to be drawn into some kind of scientific and technical discussion on a subject that they won't be able to understand. Actually, the concept of riparian buffers is quite simple.

The word riparian is derived from the Latin word "ripa", meaning bank. A riparian buffer zone is simply a band of vegetation (grasses, shrubs, trees) that is allowed to grow along the bank of a stream or other body of water. The creation of riparian buffers is perhaps the single most important action that ClearWater can take to preserve and improve the quality of the water in Spring Creek and its tributaries.

Compared to many other parts of the state, the Centre Region still enjoys a relatively healthy economy; and this is something for which we should be thankful. Nevertheless, we also need to recognize that many of the activities that come with the kind of robust growth we continue to see in our area represent challenges to the health of our streams and other aquatic resources. Riparian buffers protect stream banks from erosion and catch and hold sediments and pollutants that are inevitably generated by our ongoing construction activities. In still rural areas, riparian buffers offer protection from agricultural activities, as well. Riparian buffers can create recreational opportunities for humans while also providing homes for a multitude of plant and animal species, including some species that are rarely found outside of these narrow riparian bands.

So, if you own a piece of property that has springs or headwater streams or a tributary to Spring Creek running through it, we'd like you to consider creating a riparian buffer strip along your part of the watershed. You'll be doing some great work that will go a long way toward protecting and improving the beauty and health of our precious aquatic resources. If you're interested, please give us a call. ClearWater's staff will be happy to help you create a buffer that is just right for your particular piece of property. By working together, we can create interconnected "ribbons of green" that will help preserve and protect the beauty and the health of our region.



Brian

Our thanks to...

Cleveland Brothers for donating a long reach track hoe for the Watershed Cleanup Day sinkhole cleanup at the James Cleveland trail in Centre Hall. Special thanks to **Mark Dorner** for making this possible.

Don Watson, Phil Zimmerman, Marj Seward, Ernie Hawk, and John & Joyce Lucas for the April and May newsletter mailings and **Marj Seward, Liz Roth, Arian Zarkower, Emma Frank, and Phil Zimmerman** for the membership renewals and Connections packets.

Jeff Sturniolo. During one busy May week, Jeff oversaw construction at the ClearWater office, assisted staff with bids and contracts, stabilized a stream gage for the Water Resources Monitoring Project, worked on the Coordinating Committee agenda, and coordinated a crew that cleaned a major sinkhole in the Watershed Cleanup. Way to go, Jeff!

Bob Gruver and **George Hildenbrandt** for leading the Mother's Day Wildflower Walk and **Harry George** for taking photographs of the event.

Bob Eberhart for coordinating the special May Voter's Guide issue of *Springs&Sinks*.

Adam Kapp for a great semester as our public relations intern!

State College Borough for allowing us to use their Community Room for our Adventures in Conservation presentations.

John Oleksa, Dave Whiteman, Jessica Peterson, and Donna who planted 225 native plants and removed piles of Garlic Mustard and Common Wintercress at the PA Military Museum riparian restoration site on May 17.

Bryce Boyer, Lynn LaBorde, Melissa & John Wischaupt, Beverly Lipski, Martha Sawyer, Ann Donovan, Bob Donaldson, Beth Bogden, Matt Genchur, Angie Mitchell, Katie Ombalski, and Lynn Fosbender who planted 108 native woody and herbaceous plants in the Watershed -Wise demonstration gardens at the ClearWater office on May 21. Also to **Arian Zarkower** for watering and **Jack Stellmack** for donating a garden rake and shovel to ClearWater for the continued effort.

Bryce Boyer and **Heather Jacobs** for May water monitoring.

SPE Federal Credit Union & ClearWater Co-Sponsor Arbor Day Celebration

by Jason Bell

SPE Federal Credit Union and ClearWater Conservancy co-sponsored this year's Arbor Day Memorial Tree Planting Celebration. In honor of the day, two trees were planted at the new Spring Creek Nature Park in Bellefonte. A Flowering Redbud was donated by SPE Federal Credit Union, and a Green Ash was provided by ClearWater Conservancy through the Alice Beatty Memorial Fund. Planting these trees in Spring Creek Nature Park was also a fitting way to add to the existing riparian buffer between the road and the stream.

Two guest speakers provided an informative program to the celebration's participants. Jim Walizer, a local independent tree farmer, spoke about the history of forests in central Pennsylvania and the importance of trees in our community. Jim explained how huge American Chestnut trees used to dominate the Pennsylvania landscape and discussed the efforts that exist today to reintroduce this tree to our wooded areas. In honor of this reintroduction effort, two American Chestnut saplings were planted in the park.

Tim Phelps, Senior Research Technologist at Pennsylvania State University's College of Agricultural Science, went on to share interesting facts about the newly planted trees and lead the group on a tree identification hike through the Nature Park. Throughout the hike, Tim pointed out features such as bark, leaves, and branch formations that are helpful in identifying trees. Tim is also working hard on reintroducing the chestnut, and was respectfully considered by Jim Walizer to be "the American Chestnut Expert".

Braving the rain, the group collectively planted the two memorial trees, one near the park entrance, and the other by the stream. The top of the park has a fairly steep slope leading from the road to the water, so continued planting in this park will benefit the stretch of Spring Creek that runs along and downstream from the park.

At the end of the celebration, fifty native Eastern White Pine seedlings were distributed to the people who attended the celebration. Copies of "Planting Trees in Your Community Forest by Sylvan and Friends" were given out too. This colorful, illustrated manual was designed for use by school tree planting groups, urban forestry volunteer organizations, 4-H clubs, and scouting and other youth groups. The books were donated by PSU's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Special thanks to Barbara Fisher, Nancy Stover, Kelli Ventura, Jim Walizer, and Tim Phelps for their contributions to the Arbor Day celebration. ClearWater looks forward to continuing this new Arbor Day tradition with SPE Federal Credit Union.



SPE Federal Credit Union CEO Russ Brooks plants a Green Ash, assisted by Tim Phelps and Jason Bell.

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program to pilot a Riparian Conservation Program along two of the impaired segments of Spring Creek, in the upper Spring Creek headwaters and the Slab Cabin Run sub-basin. This program will educate streamside property owners about proper stewardship principles and techniques while actively working with interested landowners to restore riparian buffers.

The program will also encourage the protection of the restored buffers with riparian conservation easements in an effort to move the community closer to our vision of interconnected ribbons of green weaving along the streams of the Spring Creek Watershed. Conversations with select landowners have already indicated a high level of enthusiasm for this project and illustrate the increasing public understanding of the importance of riparian buffers to the overall health of our water resources.

Riparian Buffer Resources for Landowners

Numerous government-sponsored programs exist to help landowners implement riparian buffers along their streamside property. Most work closely with landowners, providing technical assistance to develop sustainable land use practices and minimize stream degradation. Some provide financial assistance for implementation, while others offer financial incentives to implement conservation practices.

The Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan briefly describes several of these programs, including...

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Conservation Reserve Enhancements Program (CREP)
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
Streambank Fencing Program
Forestry Incentives Program
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act (Clean and Green)
Reforestation Tax Credit
Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP)
Woodland Incentive Program (WIP)
Community Forestry Program

Burell Whitworth, former ClearWater Director and District Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, offers advice to streamside landowners who want to install riparian buffers to enhance their property. To learn more about the available programs, contact him at (814) 355-4897 or

Burell.Whitworth@pamillhall.fsc.usda.gov.

Backyard Buffers Presentation Available

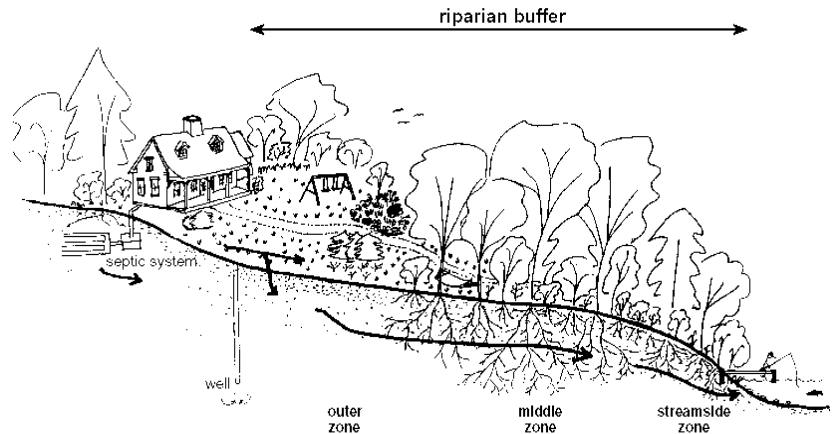
by Shana Tritsch, Outreach

Committee Chair

ClearWater Conservancy is starting a Speakers Bureau, through which a selection of presentations will be available for your group or meeting. We currently have four presentations available: ClearWater Conservancy; Groundwater, Drinking Water, and Wells; Watershed Wise Landscaping; and Backyard Buffers. If your group would be interested in hearing any of these presentations, or if you would be interested in giving these presentations, please call the ClearWater office.

The following information comes from the Backyard Buffers presentation.

Since the articles in the *Centre Daily Times* and *Springs&Sinks* about the impairment of Spring Creek, many people are asking, "Who is the polluter? Who did this to the creek?" The answer to these questions is less straightforward than it would have been a decade ago. Then, it was easy to point the finger at "point-sources," like industrial discharges, but now, the primary cause of the impairment is "non-point source" discharges. One of the biggest non-point source discharges is stormwater runoff, which all of us are responsible for. When rain falls on a forest, it percolates into the ground, recharging the groundwater. But when rain falls on a building, parking lot, or even a mowed lawn, it rapidly runs across the surface of the ground, flowing quickly into our local streams. This runoff can contain contamination and cause erosion. When you look around at the acres of pavement and mowed grass that cover our landscape, it's easy to wonder what anyone can do about this problem.



Source: Connecticut River Joint Commissions *Rivers Banks & Buffers*

There are things that you, as a property owner, can do to improve the quality of our local streams, particularly if you have a stream or drainage on your property. Did you know that mowing to the edge of a stream contributes to pollution, flooding, and erosion problems, as well as encourages invasion by exotic plants that can take over? If you have a stream in your yard, it can become a valuable part of your landscape with minimal effort and care. ClearWater Conservancy's new Backyard Buffers presentation can tell you how.

Riparian buffers are strips of trees, bushes, and plants along a stream that filter and slow down runoff before it reaches a stream. Buffers also provide habitat for both terrestrial critters, like birds, and aquatic critters, like macroinvertebrates and fish. Even small buffers are important to the water quality and local wildlife. A lawn mowed to the water's edge can begin to be transformed into a buffer simply by not mowing a strip along the water's edge. Gradually, plants will start to emerge, first flowers and shrubs and then trees. You can give your buffer a head start and ward off invasive plants by planting native wildflowers, shrubs, or trees. Native plants are excellent choices because they are well suited to the soils and weather, resist many diseases and insects, and provide food and cover favored by local wildlife. The list to the left provides a sample of native central Pennsylvania plants that grow well along waterways.

Backyard Buffer Plants

Shrubs

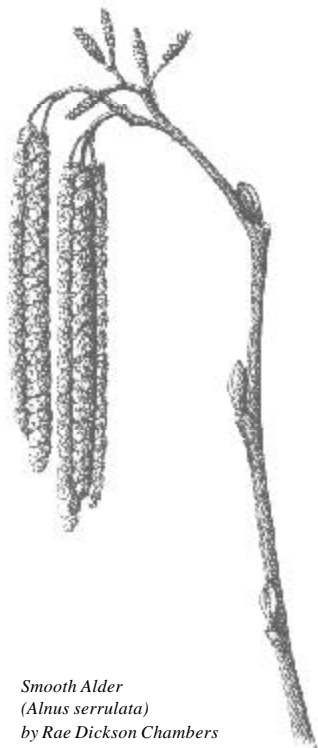
- Arrowwood Viburnum
- Red Chokeberry
- Elderberry
- Buttonbush
- Silky Dogwood
- Ninebark
- Smooth Alder
- Winterberry

Wet Meadow

- New England Aster
- Marsh Marigold
- Swamp Milkweed
- Blue Flag
- Blue Vervain
- Switch Grass
- Cardinal Flower
- Blazing Star
- Turk's Cap Lily
- Joe-Pye Weed

Trees

- River Birch
- Tulip Poplar
- Black Gum
- Sycamore
- Green Ash
- Serviceberry
- Pin Oak
- Swamp White Oak



Smooth Alder
(*Alnus serrulata*)
by Rae Dickson Chambers

ClearWater Newsbriefs...

Volunteers organized by the Cooperative Wetlands Center
with the trash removed from the Millbrook Marsh Fen.

Adventures in Conservation

The first program in ClearWater's new Adventures in Conservation series was a wonderful success. Dan Ombalski spoke to a crowd of nearly forty about the Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch and the Golden Eagle migration.

The next program will feature the book, *Our Paradise*, by local author Jeff Deitrich. Jeff will share stories about growing up in the Nittany Valley, trout fishing, and life. He will end the evening with a fishing mini-workshop for those who are interested in a more in-depth conversation.

Members of the Outreach Committee are always looking for opportunities for fun and educational programs for ClearWater members and the community. Volunteerism is a strong theme in the Adventures in Conservation series, both in event participation and planning. If you have suggestions for special programs or activities that you would like to organize, please contact Shana Tritsch, committee chair at tritsch@chilitech.com.

RÜTGERS Organics

The RÜTGERS Organics Corporation (ROC) Community Advisory Council is a twelve-member body whose mission is to facilitate communication between ROC and the community and to promote a partnership between the company and the community. As a collaborative group, RÜTGERS Organics Corporation management and the members of the CAC meet on a bi-monthly basis to discuss topics such as the organization and operations of ROC, environmental performance, safety, emergency preparedness, social and economic commitments to the area, long-term organizational vision, etc. Jennifer Shuey currently sits on this CAC. If ClearWater members or citizens have comments, concerns, or questions to relay to ROC, please let Jennifer know.



Watershed Cleanup Day

It's a record. This year's Watershed Cleanup Day, held on May 3, removed an incredible 96 tons of trash and debris from sinkholes, roadsides, stream banks, parks, and trails. Watershed Cleanup Day 2003 was once again supported by a proclamation from the Centre County Board of Commissioners, who also recognized May as Watershed Awareness Month.

Thank you to all who pitched in to make this effort a success, especially the planning committee who did an excellent job raising awareness of the annual event throughout Centre County's watersheds. Thanks especially to Gert Aron, Ann Donovan, Bob Ormand, Genie Robine, Paul Ruskin, Hiedi Sieg, Jeff Sturniolo, Don Watson, and Nancy VanLandingham for your excellent work.

Now let's all do our part to discourage and prevent littering and illegal dumping and keep our watersheds clean!

Spring Creek Day

Volunteers are needed to help plan and coordinate this year's Spring Creek Day, to be held on Sunday, September 28 at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. This annual tradition has been a great way to spread

our conservation message to the community with hikes, demonstrations, displays, children's activities, food, music, and fun! We are looking for new and creative ideas, so if you have some time and talent to share, call Jennifer at 237-0400.

Congratulations

On June 21, Watershed Planner Matt Genchur will marry Beth Bogden. ClearWater wishes them every happiness as they begin their new life together as husband and wife.

Stan Yoder Preserve Quilt Raffle

Tickets are now on sale for the latest quilt made for Stan Yoder Preserve's ongoing fundraising. This year's quilt, *Bear's Paw*, is a traditional design in contemporary fabrics and is quite striking.

Stan Yoder Preserve, a part of the proposed greenway for the Centre Region, was purchased two years ago, through the efforts of a group of citizens and the generosity of one individual who lent part of the money for the project. For information on how to buy raffle tickets contact Patty at 466-7485 or Polly at 466-6991.

A NOTE FROM JEN

Hello friends...

We made it through quite a busy spring full of special events! Through April and May ClearWater volunteers and staff designed a garden, planted native trees, removed invasive vegetation, gave presentations, staffed display booths, led a wildflower walk, and cleaned up sinkholes, streams, and roadsides throughout the watershed. Whew! To everyone who helped in big and little ways to make each event a success, I offer you my thanks and congratulations.



As we complete the term of our Outreach and Watershed Education grant this month, I would like to extend a special thank you to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Through this grant, their Growing Greener program has supported *ClearWater News* and the *Springs&Sinks* newsletter, our two websites, special events like Spring Creek Day and the Watershed Cleanup, the public forums on the Spring Creek stream impairments, and our Connections outdoor education program over the past two years. The grant also funded our Outreach Coordinator position who staffed the volunteer Outreach Committee and managed ClearWater's many day-to-day outreach projects, opportunities, and needs.

As we reevaluate our staff and financial resources, we will be looking at options to streamline our outreach program. Our goal is to reach our members and the broader community with high-quality outreach materials as cost-effectively as possible. One of the new directions that we will explore is the effectiveness publishing *ClearWater News* on a quarterly schedule. A fall issue featuring wetlands should be the next to arrive.

I would also like to highlight an exciting upcoming event for ClearWater. On July 31, ClearWater will be hosting a Business After Hours through the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County. We are excited about showcasing our new demonstration project, Conservation Techniques for Watershed-Wise Backyards and Businesses. As we welcome local business leaders to our office, we will share our natural resource conservation message and encourage additional partnerships with the business community. If you are interested in helping with this unique outreach opportunity, please let me know.

Our members are truly our best outreach tool. Through our individual networks we can reach out to the conservation-minded citizens of central Pennsylvania. Please tell your friends and colleagues about the good work that ClearWater is doing and encourage them to join us in making a difference.

Best wishes,

I want to invest...

ClearWater Conservancy Membership

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 form below and mail to: ClearWater Conservancy, 2525 North Asherigan Street, State College, PA, 16803.

Individual/Family	Business/Organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Visionary \$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Leader \$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Patron \$750
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100
	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100

A Life Membership option is also available. Call to find out more.

Name/Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Contact person _____
 Payment: Check (made payable to ClearWater Conservancy)
 MasterCard Visa
 Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____
 Name (as it appears on card) _____
 Signature _____

Contributions may also be made to the Donald W. Hamer Land Conservation Fund. Contributions to the fund honor this past president's conservation vision and are used solely to support the ClearWater Conservancy's land trust activities.

The ClearWater Conservancy Fund of the Centre County Community Foundation is another available avenue to support our conservation mission.

By contributing to ClearWater's endowment, donors make a lasting difference for Centre County's environment.

Visit www.centrecountyccf.org for more information.



ClearWater Conservancy

2555 North Atherton Street
State College, PA 16803

(814) 237-0400

www.clearwaterconservancy.org

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June 2003

***2003 Memberships are now past due.
If you haven't sent in your renewal, please
send it now. Thank You!***

ClearWater News

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

During a fortunate break in the rain on Sunday, May 11, Bob Gruver and George Hildenbrandt led ClearWater Conservancy's annual Mother's Day Wildflower Walk. Bob and George, affiliated with both ClearWater and the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society (PNPS), have led this walk for several years. Participants walked along a portion of Spring Creek located on Rockview property, walking both along a bluff and in the canyon of the stream. Usually off-limits to the public, the twenty participants enjoyed seeing the spring wildflowers in bloom, such as wild columbine, jack-in-the-pulpit, wild ginger, and rue anemone. In addition to the flowering plants, Bob and George also pointed out the many ferns and other non-flowering plants along this stretch of Spring Creek, such as the maidenhair fern, Christmas fern, maidenhair spleenwort, and horse tails. Keep in mind for next year our Mother's Day Wildflower Walk—there's no better way to work off a Mother's Day brunch!



*Marsh Marigold
by Rae Dickson Chambers*

Visit PNPS on the web at www.pawildflower.org.