



CLEARWATER *conservancy*

CLEARWATER NEWS FALL 2007

On the Wings of Eagles

Karl's Commitment to Conservation

“ClearWater Conservancy is a unique group,” said Karl Striedieck. “They are interested in actually preserving the land.” On June 14, 2007, Mr. Striedieck signed the papers to secure his land through a permanent conservation easement to be protected by ClearWater.

The signing of this easement had been a long time in the making. Since October, 2006 ClearWater Conservancy and Mr. Striedieck have been working hard to seal the deal. It all began with an inquiry by Mr. Striedieck to ClearWater about the available options for securing his land as a natural resource for the future.

He knew that he wanted his land to remain as it was so that it could be valued and appreciated. “With the population increasing as it is,” said Mr. Striedieck, “I think this land will



Karl Striedieck and ClearWater President Jeff Sturniolo make the conservation easement official on June 14, 2007.

become even more valuable in the next hundred years.” He added that those involved in conservation are not interested in immediate rewards but instead focus on the legacy that we leave for future generations.

An important resource that Mr. Striedieck hoped to conserve was the forested ridge top that allows him to practice falconry, a major hobby of

his. Falconry or hawking is the sport of using trained raptors (birds of prey) to hunt or pursue game. In the easement, Mr. Striedieck placed provisions that allowed registered falconry groups to hunt on his property. He has a great love for this sport, which he says has attributed to the return of many endangered species. Organized falconry clubs work hard to return species of concern to high numbers so they will be strong enough for hunting.

The ridge is useful for more than one of Mr. Striedieck's hobbies. This retired fighter pilot is also a champion glider. Gliding (also known as soaring) is a recreational activity and competitive sport in which pilots fly un-powered aircraft known as gliders or sailplanes. Properly, the term gliding refers to descending flight of a heavier-than-air craft, whereas

Mark Your Calendar!

Monthly Meetings

ClearWater Board of Directors
2nd Thursday, 7:30 – 9 am

Spring Creek Watershed Community
Coordinating Committee
**3rd Tuesday, 7:30 – 9:30 am, Patton
Township Municipal Building**

ClearWater Land Conservation &
Stewardship Committee
4th Wednesday, 7:30 – 9 am

Wish List

Forever postage stamps
Tent canopies for outdoor events
Empty inkjet cartridges to recycle
Large cooler for events
Silent auction/raffle donations
black oil sunflower seed

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

April 2 - July 31, 2007

Katherine Freeman & Mark
Patzkowsky
Jane Sheerin
Molly & Gary Allan
Carol Diviney
Steve & Wendy Schweiber
Caryl Brubaker
Lynn & Luke LaBorde
Connie Randolph
Panko Wealth Management
Suzanne Wills
Herschel & Eileen Leibowitz
Gloria Cleeton
Derek & Kelly Kalp
Larry & Karen Walker
James McCorkel
Al and Ellen Jarrett
Alan Benjamin
Nina Sargeant & Jonathan
Grine
Nabil Mark
Bob & Joann Leonard
Dan & Patricia Alters
Jason Kaye

Special Opportunities

August 26, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, 2 – 5 pm

“Keep our Trails Happy & Healthy!”
Happy Trails Day with Mount Nittany
Conservancy. Explore “Leave No
Trace” principles through fun and
interactive activities! The mission of
this event is to educate the community
about trail ethics and encourage
responsible hiking and recreation in the
Centre Region. Shuttle service from
MMNC to the Mount Nittany Trailhead
will be provided.

August 27, State College Elks Country Club

Otto's Golf-Fest,
benefitting
ClearWater Conser-
vancy. We currently
have a waiting list
for golfers, but a few corporate sponsor-
ships are still available. Registration
and sponsorship forms and info are on
the web at
www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.



August 27, State College Elks Country Club, 6 pm

Dinner and entertainment by Scott
Bruce of WiseCrackers Comedy Clubs,
benefits ClearWater Conservancy. \$25.
RSVP by August 21. Italian buffet
includes chicken parmesan, manicotti,
fettucine alfredo, spaghetti & meatballs,
salad, garlic bread, and desert.

September 2, Coburn Park, 11 am – 6 pm

Penns Valley Conservation
Association's CRICKFEST '07. More
at www.pennsvalley.net.

September 9, Musser Gap, 1 – 5 pm
Adventures in Conservation series:
Celebrate the protection of Musser Gap
and its transfer into Rothrock State
Forest! Potluck picnic, live music,
special presentations, and a guided
walk into the gap.

**September 16, Millbrook Marsh
Nature Center, noon – 5 pm**
Adventures in Conservation series:
Spring Creek Day Family Festival
celebrating the 10th Birthday of
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center!

October 7
Adventures in Conservation series:
Explore the Spring Creek Canyon, our
community's ecological jewel and site
of much current speculation.

October 14
Adventures in Conservation series:
Hike Mount Nittany, the icon of our
community. Several hikes will be
offered, with varying degrees of difficulty.

October 28
Adventures in Conservation series:
Explore Eagle Field, Karl Striedieck's
recently protected conservation ease-
ment.

November 4, Scotia Range
Adventures in Conservation series:
Learn about our Scotia Barrens Conser-
vation Program.

**November 7, State College Elks
Country Club, 6 pm**
ClearWater Annual Membership
Meeting and Banquet. RSVP by
October 30.

**Please visit our website at
www.clearwaterconservancy.org
for more details!**

CLEARWATER T-SHIRTS

We have a new batch of ClearWater logo t-shirts available for
purchase for \$10 each. To order, please specify S, M, L, XL, or
XXL and green, blue, or sand, while supplies last.
Show you care by what you wear!

A Note from your President

The hard work of the ClearWater / Otto's Golf-Fest Committee will be evident to all who attend the outing on August 27 at the State College Elks Club. Special thanks to the committee chair Joe Bishop and members Ford Stryker, Pat Morse, Laurene Keck, Steve McKenna, Roger Garthwaite, and Matt Genchur for their hard work and dedication to the cause. Also check out the buffer plantings and stream bank stabilization work that ClearWater and the Elks, along with several other contributors, were able to accomplish this year as part of our Riparian Conservation Program.

Another special date coming up is September 9, when ClearWater is celebrating the successful Musser Gap acquisition. There will be a picnic on site, a guided walk up into the gap, and a great time for all! Please come out and join us.

If the work that ClearWater Conservancy is doing for the community is important to you, please take this opportunity to help us continue our mission by making a personally-significant contribution to our *Campaign for Conservation*. A remittance envelope can conveniently be found in this newsletter. Your contribution will fund our land conservation program, and specific projects such as Musser Gap, Scotia Barrens, Spring Creek Canyon, and the other specific projects being identified in ClearWater's new "Conservation Action Plan" that we are completing in conjunction with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. You will be doing your part to give to our community's future. Thank you for your support!



THANK YOU

John & Jane Ziegler, long-time supporters and new Life Members, for hosting the ClearWater Board summer picnic at their cottage on Spruce Creek.

Peggy Kendall, our newest Life Member.

The **Huplits Foundation**, **Centre County Community Foundation**, the **Melissa K. and Robert A. Heydenreich Fund at CCCF**, and **Altrusa International of Centre County** for funding portions of the Scotia Barrens Conservation Project.

The Adventures in Conservation fall planning team: **Melinda Turner** (chair), **Steve Miller**, **Barbara**

THANK YOU

Fisher, and **Dan Crust**.

Dr. Jim Finley for a great Adventures in Conservation Program at Bridget Stemberger's property. Thanks to the **PA Native Plant Society** for co-hosting the event.

Bryce Boyer for completing our office bathroom renovations.

Everyone who adopted red & white oaks from our Growing Native program and gave them good homes, and to **Ernie Hawk** for taking care of the rest at our office.

Donald & Diana Watson, **Ruth Luse**, **Marj Seward**, **Mary Ann & Redding Crafts**, and **Anna Kochersperger** for help with mail-

THANK YOU

ings and around the office and gardens.

Louise Comas, **Jim Michelson**, **Lucy Boyce**, and **Bryce Boyer** for building our Growing Native greenhouse at the **PSU Center for Sustainability**.

Sweetland Engineering, especially **Rich Manning**, for designing the temporary access and parking lot at Musser Gap.

Tyler Thompson, **Jeff Sturniolo**, **Carolyn & Elwood Hatley**, and **Lowe's** for helping to make our conservation easement signs possible.

Loralyn Fabian, **Erin Pierce**, and **Hannah Ryan**, our summer interns!



The Striedieck property on Bald Eagle Ridge. This ridge can be used for many activities, including falconry and gliding.

soaring is the correct term to use when the craft gains altitude or speed from rising air.

After launching, glider pilots search for rising air to gain height. If conditions are good enough, experienced pilots can fly many hundreds of miles before returning to their home airfields, and occasionally flights over 1,000 miles are made. Ridges are very important for this sport because they cause the air drafts necessary for un-powered flight.

The Bald Eagle Ridge is important for all types of flight, including avian migration. Patti Barber, a biologist of the Pennsylvania Game Commission explained that the Striedieck property, in particular, is important to birds of the state and the country.

“This land houses many important forest interior avian species,” said Barber. “Since it is a ridge top, it is also very important in the migration of bird species, such as bald eagles.” Mr. Striedieck’s property is part of

Bald Eagle Ridge - Important Bird Area #32 and contains a large forested tract providing habitat for bird species of great conservation concern, such as Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Worm-eating Warbler.

All of the project partners present at the signing were just as excited as Mr. Striedieck about the doors this conservation easement will be able to open for conservation in the area. Jeff Sturniolo, ClearWater Conservancy President, is hoping that this land will lead to even greater things in ClearWater’s future. “This land will be able to serve as a springboard for creating bigger clusters of land and forming larger protected areas.”

Mr. Sturniolo added that none of this would have been possible without the incredible effort of Bill Hilshey, ClearWater’s Conservation Easement Manager. “He has such a big vision and his tenacious attitude will allow it to be accomplished,” said Mr. Sturniolo. Mr. Striedieck added to the praise, “I don’t know if we could

have done it without him. We are very lucky to have him.”

This conservation easement is actually the first in Pennsylvania to be completed with the assistance of a Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) grant. LIP is a US Fish and Wildlife Service, federally funded program, providing state agencies such as the PA Game Commission and Fish & Boat Commission with money to assist land trusts in the purchase of conservation easements on private lands to protect species of greatest concern.

This conservation easement is the first successful one for Patti Barber of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, who has several LIP projects in the works. “You would think we would have done more,” said Mrs. Barber, “But since there are usually so many people and organizations involved, there are a lot of hoops to jump through and lots of provisions to satisfy. It becomes very complicated.” She too attributed the success of this easement to the determination of Bill Hilshey.



The Scarlet Tanager, a bird of great conservation concern, that uses the Striedieck property as its home.

However, none of this would have been possible without the generosity of the Striediecks. Their dedication to conservation has made it possible to secure a piece of Bald Eagle Ridge permanently. The property's 245 acres include a wide variety of habitat types including forest, early successional habitat, grassy fields, wetlands, and riparian areas at the headwaters of both Buffalo Run and Halfmoon Creek.

"Karl's interest and willingness to work with ClearWater to make his land a conservancy is a really generous act," said Walt Ebaugh, past President of ClearWater Conservancy. "In my view there are three major land conservation targets of ClearWater's vision: forested ridges, stream corridors, and special natural places. I think that Karl Striedieck's conservation easement secures all three."

About the Landowner Incentive Program

ClearWater Conservancy purchased the Striedieck conservation easement with the assistance of federal funds from a Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) grant. LIP is a US Fish and Wildlife Service program to protect and restore habitats on private lands to benefit species of Special Concern identified by a State's Wildlife Action Plan. The Pennsylvania Game Commission awarded a LIP grant to ClearWater Conservancy in October 2006. The Eagle Field conservation easement is the first LIP project to be completed in Pennsylvania.

"Important Bird Areas" Are Important to ClearWater Conservancy

In the past several months, ClearWater Conservancy completed two land conservation projects protecting portions of two Important Bird Areas.

The Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) is a global effort by Audubon to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. By working with Audubon chapters, landowners, public agencies, community groups, and other non-profits, Audubon endeavors to interest and activate a broad network of supporters to ensure that all Important Bird Areas are properly managed and conserved.

On August 8, 2006 ClearWater purchased nine parcels, totaling 423 acres located in Musser Gap, Ferguson Township, from a private landowner who had planned to develop the property. In August 2007, Musser Gap will be transferred to DCNR and incorporated into Rothrock State Forest, providing public access to its impressive network of trails.

Musser Gap is a forested mountain gap that is within the Audubon-designated Tussey Mountain Important Bird Area (IBA) and adjacent to the Rothrock State Forest and Stone Mountain Important Bird Areas. Tussey Mountain is a noted flyway for spring-migrating raptors. Each year the Tussey Mountain Hawkwatch records the highest number of spring-migrating golden eagles east of the Mississippi River. The mature and largely-unfragmented deciduous forest also provides important habitat for nesting forest-interior Neotropical migratory birds.

On June 14, 2007 ClearWater Conservancy successfully completed the first Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) grant in Pennsylvania. LIP is a federally funded US Fish and Wildlife Service program that provides state agencies with funds to assist land trusts in the purchase of conservation easements on private lands to protect species of greatest concern.

This funding allowed for the purchase of a conservation easement from a private landowner, protecting 245 acres located within the Bald Eagle Ridge IBA. This forested ridge provides habitat for bird species of conservation concern, including Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Worm-eating Warbler. This property is within approximately one and one-half miles of State Game Lands #176, which is also an Important Bird Area, and allows for relative connectivity of these two habitats.

Completion of these two land conservation projects permanently protects nearly 668 acres of important bird habitat in central Pennsylvania.

For more information about Audubon's Important Bird Area program, contact Kim Van Fleet, Audubon's Central Pennsylvania IBA Coordinator at kvanfleet@audubon.org or visit www.audubon.org/bird/IBA/.

ClearWater **Newsbriefs...**

SPRING CREEK RESTORATION AT THE PENN STATE SHEEP FARM

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited has coordinated a significant stream improvement project on Spring Creek at the Penn State Sheep Farm. The project includes the construction of habitat structures, the relocation of stream fencing to increase the riparian zone, and riparian zone planting.

Project partners include the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Penn State, Centre County Conservation District, and ClearWater Conservancy.

Construction is scheduled for Monday, August 20 through Thursday, August 24. Work hours will be 8 am to 5 pm. PA Fish & Boat Commission will supply equipment, operators, supervision, design, construction oversight and some labor. We need volunteers to help drill holes in logs for rebar, nail planking, anchor bank matting, whack weeds, etc. Some work will be in the stream. We need at least 12 volunteers per day.

This project is a great way to learn about habitat improvement and installation of devices, but most importantly, to enhance and protect Spring Creek.

If you can commit please e-mail Joe Boston at joeboston1959@comcast.net with the date or dates that you are available. If you have questions, feel free to call Joe at (814) 861-5566.

THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE TRAIL MAP AND BROCHURE

The subcommittee that oversees the management of Thompson Woods Preserve, including ClearWater, College Township, State College Borough, and Centre Region Parks & Recreation, recently completed a trail map and brochure for this publicly accessible Preserve which links Lederer and Walnut Springs Parks with the Centre Furnace Mansion, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, and Spring Creek Park downstream. Brochures will be stocked on site at

the Preserve and will help visitors understand its ecology and learn what activities are permitted and prohibited by the conservation easement and deed. Thanks to theprinters.com for their generous printing donation!

MCCOY-LINN DAM REMOVAL AND RESTORATION

Gleim Environmental Group has been chosen as the contractor to remove the McCoy-Linn Dam, located between Bellefonte and Milesburg on Spring Creek. The tentative start date for dam removal is August 13.

Objectives of this PA Fish & Boat Commission and ClearWater Conservancy project are to restore stream habitat, natural biodiversity, and



ecosystem function; improve water quality; decrease trapped sediment to augment the stream channel and floodplain; restore stream and riparian habitat; eliminate invasive species; preserve, create, and enhance public space and access; provide educational opportunities on the benefits of dam removal; and eliminate a public safety hazard to water recreation such as fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. More project information can be found at www.clearwaterconservancy.org/RCP%20-%20McCoy%20Dam.htm.

OTTO'S GOLF-FEST

This year's event is coming together beautifully, thanks to our dedicated planning committee and our generous sponsors and prize donors (confirmed as of August 15). Thanks especially to our lead sponsor and event partner,

Otto's Pub & Brewery!



Silver Sponsors:

Alexander Building Construction
ARM Group Inc.
The Farfield Company
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.
Gilbane, Inc.
Johnson Controls
L. Robert Kimball
Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.
McCormick Taylor Associates
Payette
PBCI-Allen/Romanini Architecture
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
R. H. Marcon Roofing Contractors
Sweetland Engineering & Associates
The Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.

Hole and Prize Sponsors:

Bass Pro Shop
Blackhawk Homestead Nursery

Chambers Environmental Group, Inc.
Directed Technologies Drilling
Dix Honda
Fit For Play
Fulton Bank
Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates
Jonathan Grine
Landscape II
McQuaide Blasko Attorneys at Law
Mortgage Source
Nestlerode & Loy
Parente Randolph
RE/MAX Centre Realty - Scott Yocum
Trans Associates
Torrion Group
Veronesi Building & Remodeling
Your Cigar Den

Hole-in-one Sponsor:

Stocker Chevrolet

Volunteer Sponsor:

Sam's Club

Prize Donors:

Mount Nittany Wheelworks, Joe Humphreys, Blackhawk Homestead Nursery, Scott Sheeder, the Penn State Fly Fishing Club, Otto's Pub & Brewery, Bass Pro Shops, Jessica Dolan - Room to Breathe Home & Office Organizing, Joanne Garrett - watercolor artist, The Queen Bed & Breakfast, Pete Bordi, Simply Elegant Gowns, SJ Miska Goldsmiths and Jewelers, PSU Golf Courses, Your Cigar Den, The Ravine, Candy Bouquet, Adam Mentzel - Certified Rolfer, Zola, Macy's, John Corr, Freestone Golf Course, Super Suppers, Mary Ellen Yearick - ceramic artist, Sand Ridge Designs, Honeybaked Ham Company, Toftrees Resort & Conference Center, Mane-ly Hair, Ramada Inn/P.J. Harrigan's, De-Stress Station, Old Field Industries, Penn State Center for the Performing Arts, A

Basket Full, Steve Leonardi Wildlife Graphics, TCO Fly Shop, Starbucks, Bryce Jordan Center

COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

Non-golfing ClearWater members and supporters can join us after the Otto's Golf-Fest on August 27 at 6 pm for dinner and comedy by Scott Bruce of Wise Crackers Comedy Clubs.

Guests will enjoy an Italian buffet dinner, including chicken parmesan, manicotti, fettuccine alfredo, spaghetti & meatballs, salad, garlic bread, & desert. Tickets are \$25 per person, and RSVPs are due by August 21.

Also available at the dinner will be a fabulous fishing package that Scott will live auction, three raffle board packages going for \$10 per square (or 3 for \$25), and a silent auction with many more fun items. Proceeds from all of the day's events benefit ClearWater Conservancy.

Live Auction package:

A weekend cottage getaway on Spruce Creek with an afternoon of fishing guided by Scott Sheeder, fishing gear, and four dozen flies tied by the Penn State Fly Fishing Club (\$1,700+ value)

Raffle Board items:

1. a Trek 4300 mountain bike and 2 gift certificates for service from Mount Nittany Wheelworks (\$500 value)
2. an installed landscape fountain from Blackhawk Homestead Nursery (\$500 value)
3. a day on the stream with fishing legend, Joe Humphreys (*priceless!*)

ClearWater Newsbriefs...

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL RAFFLE

Thanks to the Bryce Jordan Center, ClearWater Conservancy will be raffling off a special package for the September 28 Cirque Du Soleil show at the BJC. The box seating is for 14 people and includes dinner. To learn more about the show visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/CirqueDuSoleil/en/showstickets/saltimbanco/intro/intro.htm.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each with a maximum of 5 tickets per person. Only 300 tickets will be sold for this raffle prize worth \$2,000.

Reserve your raffle ticket(s) now by calling 237-0400 or emailing sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org. You may stop by the office to pick them up, or you may mail in a check with "Cirque Du Soleil raffle" in the memo line, and we will mail back your tickets. The raffle will be drawn at the Dinner following the Otto's Golf-Fest on August 27. You need not be present to win.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE MUSSER GAP CELEBRATION!

Join us to celebrate the gift that ClearWater Conservancy is giving to the citizens of Pennsylvania! In August, ClearWater officially transfers Musser Gap to the State Bureau of Forestry to be used as a new gateway into Rothrock State Forest.

The celebration will be held on September 9, from 1 - 5 pm on a picturesque knob on the site that

commands a spectacular view of the gap itself.

A Potluck Picnic begins at 1:30. Please bring a dish to share. We will have a big tent, tables, and chairs, but bring your lawnchairs, too.

Enjoy live music throughout the afternoon. Special program and recognition of key partners at 2:30. Guided walk by Matt Keefer, Walt Ebaugh, and Katie Ombalski up into the gap at 3:30. All guests should RSVP by September 5.

RAFFLE FOR A JENNIFER KANE OIL PAINTING OF MUSSER GAP

Famed local landscape artist, Jennifer Kane, has generously offered to paint Musser Gap and donate her creation to ClearWater Conservancy to raffle in support of upcoming projects in the Land Conservation Program. Jennifer will begin her painting at the Musser Gap celebration and infuse her work with the energy of those gathered in support of its protection.

Raffle tickets will be available for \$10 each, and the winner will be drawn on January 25, 2008 at ClearWater's "For the Love of Art & Chocolate" event. View Jennifer's work at www.jenniferkaneart.com.

WRMP REPORT

The Spring Creek Watershed Community's Water Resources Monitoring Project (WRMP) 2006 Annual Report, entitled *Springs* –

The Lifeblood of the Community focuses on an often overlooked but crucial element of this area's water resources. This year's report shows why springs are important to the community, locations and uses of some of the larger springs, geologic factors that influence spring formation and locations, quality and quantity of spring flows, and flora and fauna associated with springs. The intent is to provide various background information about local springs and convey why springs are indeed vital to our community – thus the lifeblood to those of us who reside here.

Beginning in summer 2005, the WRMP expanded their monitoring efforts to include baseline water quality sampling of several of the local springs. By monitoring quantity and quality of spring flow, in combination with monitoring groundwater quality, the project will be able to gauge over time the long-term trends in the quality of subsurface waters in the watershed. This subsurface water quality reflects the integration of surface processes as they influence recharge of water to the subsurface. Thus, potential impacts to the surface conditions may be reflected in subsurface quality.

In addition to this primary topic, the report also reviews the water quality and quantity for 2006 throughout the Spring Creek Watershed. Both surface and ground water levels and base-flow surface water quality is covered for the calendar year 2006. An addendum to the report provides a summary of the 2006 base-flow data for in-stream stations, groundwater wells, and springs. These data are available upon request by contacting the project manager, Geoffrey Smith, at (814) 237-0400.

The 2006 WRMP Annual Report is available at
www.springcreekwatershed.org/wrmp/pdf/2006_ReportBody_08022007.pdf.

SPRING CREEK MODEL

ClearWater and the U.S. Geological Survey are moving into the third and final phase of a project to develop a computer model that links surface water and groundwater in a karst (limestone and dolomite) setting. The model would predict impacts to the water resources from various build-out scenarios and hydrologic modifications such as pumping, recharge, or drought.

The third phase of the DEP Growing Greener-funded project will populate the computer model with data from the Spring Creek and Spruce Creek watersheds and test specific what-if scenarios. The model will then be tweaked based on groundtruthing and input from our local technical advisory committee led by Larry Fennessey, Jay Lynch, and Todd Giddings.

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST

In June, ClearWater's Board officially endorsed the *Citizens Wilderness Proposal for the Allegheny National Forest* and supported the Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness in their efforts towards designating wilderness areas and increasing conservation within the ANF, Pennsylvania's only national forest.

More information about this issue can be found on the Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness website at www.pawild.org.

Fall 2007 Adventures in Conservation Program Series "Come for the Blue... Stay for the Green!"

Thanks to some funding assistance from the Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau, we are planning a full line-up of our fun and fascinating Adventures in Conservation programs this fall. Each event will be held on the Sunday following a Penn State home football game... hence the "Come for the Blue... Stay for the Green!" tagline. We are still working out all of the details with our other conservation partners, so check our website or listserv announcements for more information. The events will be active, educational, tied to our conservation projects, and fun.

Join us after the games, and bring along some friends!

September 2 (*Florida International weekend*), Coburn Park, 11 am - 6 pm

Penns Valley Conservation Association's CRICKFEST '07. More at www.pennsvalley.net.



September 9 (*Notre Dame weekend*), Musser Gap, 1 - 5 pm

Celebrate the protection of Musser Gap and its transfer into Rothrock State Forest!

September 16 (*Buffalo weekend*), Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, noon - 5 pm

Spring Creek Day Family Festival celebrating the 10th Birthday of Millbrook Marsh Nature Center!



October 7 (*Iowa weekend*), Fisherman's Paradise

Explore the Spring Creek Canyon, our community's ecological jewel and site of much current speculation.

October 14 (*Wisconsin - Homecoming weekend*), Mount Nittany

Hike Mount Nittany, the icon of our community. Several hikes will be offered, with varying degrees of difficulty.



October 28 (*Ohio State weekend*), Eagle Field

Explore Eagle Field, Karl Striedieck's recently protected conservation easement.

November 4, (*Purdue weekend*), Scotia Range

Learn about our Scotia Barrens Conservation Program.

**Please watch our website and listserv announcements
for additional event details closer to each event.**

Biological Inventories: Discovering the Natural Resources that we Protect through our Conservation Easements

By **Brad Ross**

Consulting Biologist and ClearWater's
Land Conservation & Stewardship
Committee Volunteer

For nearly two years, resource professionals from ClearWater's Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee (LCSC) have been assembling and analyzing biological information and inventorying the natural resources on ten parcels of land under conservation easement with ClearWater Conservancy. The LCSC initiated the biological inventory project in order to:

- (1) determine what has been protected and document the conservation value of land under easement,
- (2) provide a scientific basis for habitat management (such as construction of



Pink lady's slipper (photo by Diana Dunn).

bluebird boxes and retention of standing dead trees) and restoration and maintenance of natural conditions (through the creation of stream buffers and altered mowing schedules for grasslands), and

- (3) assist in the prioritization of properties for conservation easement and revision of criteria for future natural resource planning.

The objectives of the biological inventories and assimilation of historical data are to develop baseline documentation of what plant and animal species exist on each of the easement properties and provide landowners with information concerning the plants and animals on their property and recommendations for enhancing wildlife habitat on their land.

In the spring and summer of 2006 biologists began gathering information on plant, macroinvertebrate, fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal communities on the easement properties with a focus on gathering previously collected biological information and inventorying plant and bird species. We were able to document between 66 and 192 different species of plants on the easement properties highlighted by New Jersey tea, black cohosh, squawroot, pink lady's slipper, and spotted wintergreen.

However, the possibility for habitat improvement exists. Between 26 and 44 percent of the plants identified on the easements were non-native including such species as tree-of-



Spotted salamanders identified near ten-acre pond in the Scotia Barrens (photo by Brad Ross).

heaven, tatarian honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, and purple loosestrife.

We identified between 20 – 101 birds on the properties, including a wide variety of species ranging from forest interior specialists such as scarlet tanager, Blackburnian warbler, and wood thrush to grassland associates highlighted by savannah sparrow, eastern meadowlark, and bobolink.

This spring and summer, biologists are focusing on completing initial baseline plant surveys and conducting inventories for amphibians and reptiles on the easement properties, as well as gathering biological information on other lands of conservation concern to ClearWater including Musser Gap and the Scotia Barrens.

Additionally, information from the biological inventories has been distributed to the landowners of the easement properties and meetings have been arranged with the landowners to discuss recommendations for enhancing wildlife habitat on their properties.



A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Hello Friends... Here is the latest on the Spring Creek Canyon protection efforts.

In a letter dated June 27, 2007, ClearWater Conservancy requested to meet with the Centre County legislative delegation (Sen. Corman, Rep. Hanna, Rep. Benninghoff, and Rep. Conklin) to further our request that meaningful conservation measures are put in place prior to any divestment of Rockview property. As a result, we were invited to a meeting at Senator Corman's office on July 30. Rep. Hanna also invited DCNR and Penn State to this meeting.

The outcome of this meeting was conceptual agreement between ClearWater and the Centre County legislative delegation for ClearWater to hold conservation easements with any future owners of the Rockview lands north of I-99. These easements would be based on the results of the forthcoming DCNR-funded management plan and master plan. This is a great first step, but much work still needs to be done. No conservation easement language or deed language has been drafted to date nor have we suggested any legislative language to date.

The follow-up meeting between ClearWater and the Centre County legislative delegation (which is still to be scheduled, probably mid-September) is intended to further discuss our requests. ClearWater has always and still maintains that the management planning and master planning should happen first, the conservation easement and deed language binding any and all future landowners to certain restrictions to conserve natural resources, etc. should be next, and that land divestment should follow.

ClearWater Conservancy also still does not endorse any specific landowner. Our request for conservation easements based on the results of the management plan and master plan would apply to any possible landowners.

The Centre County legislative delegation also agreed to request a public hearing of the PA House State Government Committee to be held in Centre County before the start of the fall legislative session at the end of September. We encourage everyone to voice your opinions at this important meeting and will let you know when this public hearing is scheduled.

Thank you to all of the many individuals and groups that have been speaking out for the conservation of Spring Creek Canyon. If we continue to focus on protection of the resource as our goal, we will have a lasting impact. Your voice makes a difference!

THANK YOU

Bob Hazelton, Steve Walton, Sue Hanagan, Jackie Melander, Erin Hammerstedt, Bob Donaldson, Beth Rider, Butch Mehalick, Mark Johnson, Bob Caverly, and Dave Kristine for researching and documenting the history of the McCoy-Linn Dam.

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THANK YOU

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Matt Dallos for allowing us to use his beautiful photography of Spring Creek Canyon and Musser Gap.

Barbara Fisher, Don Hamer, and Jim McClure for providing the extra

THANK YOU

funding needed to print the special edition of *ClearWater News* dedicated to Spring Creek Canyon in color!

Micah Feigelson, a 14 year-old who generously donated \$234 to ClearWater Conservancy's *Campaign for Conservation*. What an inspiration to us all!

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!



Stan Crilly

Everyone Working Together to Conserve Natural Beauty
and the Environment in the Heart of Pennsylvania

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