



CLEARWATER *conservancy*

CLEARWATER NEWS SUMMER 2009

Watershed Cleanup Day Wins Governor's Award

A beautiful, sunny day with near record temperatures in the mid-eighties drew equally record-breaking numbers of volunteers to this year's award-winning Watershed Cleanup Day.

Over 550 volunteers joined forces to collect 214 tons of trash from roadsides, parks, streams, sinkholes, and forests throughout Centre County to give back to the planet during Earth Week.

ClearWater received a 2009 Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in recognition of this one-of-a-kind project.

Since the project's inception in 1997, ClearWater's Watershed Cleanup Day

volunteers have removed and properly disposed of over *4 million* pounds of pollution-causing illegal waste!

Local dependence on groundwater to supply drinking water makes cleaning up sinkholes and other illegal dumps a top priority. This year local contractors helped volunteers on the ground by donating operator time and heavy equipment to clean up two sinkholes and six dump sites.

The Centre County Solid Waste Authority again partnered with Conservancy to make this year's Cleanup Day a success, securing reduced tipping fees and overseeing drop-offs at the transfer station.

Watershed Cleanup Day 2009 was funded by grants from the Dansko Foundation and the PA Department of Environmental Protection Illegal Dump Cleanup Program, in addition to donations from the local business community.

The large numbers of volunteers, sheer volume of trash collected, and partnerships with local businesses combine to make ClearWater Conservancy's Watershed Cleanup Day a unique event year after year.

For a complete list of 2009 donors and participating groups, please visit www.clearwaterconservancy.org/watershed_cleanup_day.htm.

Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival On Tour

North America's Largest Environmental Film Festival Comes to State College

Appalachian Outdoors, State College's premier outdoor specialty retail shop, is hosting the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival On Tour at the Mount Nittany Middle School on June 25 from 7 to 10 pm. All proceeds from local sponsorship and ticket sales will benefit ClearWater Conservancy.

The Wild and Scenic Film Festival was conceived by a California watershed advocacy group (the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)) in 2003 and has since flourished into the largest film festival of its kind in North America. In 2004, environmental groups started asking if they could bring the festival to their community, and gradually a touring version of the Wild and Scenic Film Festival developed from outside interest.

Five years later, the tour now visits over 90 communities nationwide. The Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival on Tour aims to provide grassroots environmental organizations with a unique means for generating local environmental activism.



Ticket Information
\$8 in advance; \$10 at the door

www.clearwaterconservancy.org/wild.htm

Continued on page 4

Mark Your Calendar!

Monthly Meetings

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

ClearWater Land Conservation &
Stewardship Committee
4th Wednesday, 5 – 6:30 pm

Special Opportunities

**June 25, 7 pm, Mount Nittany
Middle School, \$8 in advance, \$10
at the door**

Wild and Scenic Environmental Film
Festival On Tour! Hosted by Appala-
chian Outdoors to benefit ClearWater
Conservancy. Visit
[www.clearwaterconservancy.org/
wild.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/wild.htm) for more information.

**August 8, 10 am, McCorkel Tree
Farm**

Conservation easement celebration
and picnic! All members and support-
ers are welcome. Find directions at
[www.clearwaterconservancy.org/
events.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/events.htm).

**August 31, State College Elks
Country Club**

6th Annual Otto's Golf-Fest benefiting
ClearWater Conservancy. Morning

and afternoon flights are available.
Lunch by Hogs Galore! Italian buffet
dinner by the Elks. Beer from Otto's
Pub & Brewery! Visit
[www.clearwaterconservancy.org/
golf.htm](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.htm) for corporate sponsorship
opportunities, golfer registration, and
other details.

**October 4, noon – 5 pm, Millbrook
Marsh Nature Center**

Spring Creek Day Family Festival. Fun
for all ages, including kid's nature
games and crafts, marsh scavenger
hunt, activities for young and old,
music and food, conservation exhibits,
and the *new* "Used Sports Equipment
Sale".

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

In Memorium Elsa Lisle

With sadness, we note the passing of Elsa
Lisle on May 7, 2009. Elsa donated a
conservation easement to ClearWater
Conservancy on her beloved land along
Spring Creek in Lemont in 2005. We were
happy to help Elsa achieve her conservation
vision for her property and leave her legacy
in the land and the flowers that meant so
much to her.

We were also honored and humbled to learn
that Elsa left a generous bequest to
ClearWater Conservancy in her will to
further our land and water conservation
mission in central Pennsylvania.

WELCOME!

New Members from
March 19 - June 5, 2009

Joe & Beth Filko
Donna & Phil Klaus
Jane & Bob Sutterlin
Arthur Brusila
Thomas Gray
Scott Thompson
Ellen Perry
Kevin Gombotz
Paul Martis
John Winnett
Bud Graham
Robert & Jackie Lindsay
Scot & Charlene
Chambers
Don & Kelly Wright
Craig McNulty
Frank & Sarah Vergamini
Gary & Francis Moorman
Ashley & Rebecca Leggett
Karen Winters
Fred & Kathy DiMuccio
Edward Wenzell
Holly & Erich May
Bill & Ingrid Colt

Volunteer Needs

People to staff a ClearWater booth at other events out in the community

Otto's Golf-Fest registration table and on-the-course volunteers

Spring Creek Day Family Festival volunteers -

picnic, kid's activities, Used Sports Equipment Sale, basket raffle, music, site logistics, etc.

People who can help migrate web content from FrontPage to a new content management system

People to transplant seedlings to larger pots at various times throughout the summer
for our Growing Native program

Wish List

Two-way walkie talkies; postage stamps; 10x10 or 10x20 tent canopies for outdoor events (or let
us know if we can ask to borrow yours for a day); gift cards to offset needed office supplies; silent
auction, raffle, or door prize items for upcoming events; dehumidifiers for the office basement; 55-
gallon barrels for us to use in an upcoming make-your-own Rain Barrel Workshop

A Note From Your President

An organization like ClearWater can only be considered a charity if it has a recognized public benefit. While many might think the things that ClearWater Conservancy focuses on should be covered by local and state governing agencies, such as protection from flooding, ensuring a safe water supply, and the like; in fact, they are not always—at least not to the fullest extent. ClearWater Conservancy serves as an advocate for the environment, which does not have an actual voice, and for which local and state regulatory mechanisms are often lacking in the details necessary to ensure strong ecological vitality.



A crucial current example of this advocacy is concern about wildlife isolation. Wildlife used to have free reign between the Scotia Barrens and Bald Eagle Ridge. That mobility it slowly being squeezed and, if cut off altogether due to development, will severely limit species diversity and the long-term viability of many species of wildlife.

ClearWater took steps to identify this critical wildlife corridor and has now secured a contract with a landowner to make this permanently-protected connection happen. Your conservancy has worked hard to secure 75% of the funding necessary to purchase the property and ensure wildlife mobility in this corridor forever! We have only a few months to raise the remaining funds. We sincerely hope you will agree that providing a permanent wildlife corridor to connect Scotia Barrens to Bald Eagle Ridge is a very important public benefit. Please support us as best you can to make sure this wildlife corridor becomes a reality.

THANK YOU

Our new team of ClearWater booth volunteers: **Scot & Charlene Chambers, Mick & Joyce McKay, Sara LaJeunesse, Barbara Kinne, Carolyn & Elwood Hatley, Holly May, Dave Kolasa, Ron Smith, and Kristin & Nick Bushong**

Musser Gap Bird Walk volunteers: **Melinda Turner, Mary Walsh, Brad Ross, Matt Marshall, Joe Verica, Nancy Ellen Kiernan, and Doug Wentzel.**

Our wonderful City Serve volunteer team who cleaned out the ClearWater office and basement in April: **Nellie & Deepu Bhattarai, Mugisha Niyibizi, Meagan Wilkinson, Lauren Kahne, Eboni Hatchell, and Chris Walters.** Thanks to Calvary Baptist Church for making this possible. Also to **Bryce Boyer** for cleaning and reorganizing the Riparian Conservation Program supplies in the garage.

Goot Essa and Tait Farm Foods for donating cheese and chutneys and **Mount Nittany Vineyard & Winery** for discounting wines at a ClearWater hosted reception at the PA Land Conservation Conference in May.

THANK YOU

Lindsay Stork, a student in **Lanny Sommese's** PSU Graphic Arts class, for designing our new Operation Conservation logo!

An **Anonymous** foundation for \$10,000 to support our Riparian Conservation Program efforts in 2009, including buffer installation, purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed removal, and support for our Growing Native program.

Kaitlyn Gephart, Alex Zimmerman, Ethan Amy, and Michael Palitti from **Ray Gephart's** video production class at Bellefonte High School for their Spring Creek Day Family Festival video! Check it out at www.clearwaterconservancy.org/springcreekday.htm.

The **Centre County Community Foundation** for a \$5,000 grant to Connections, enabling student field trips to Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Also to the **Bellefonte Elks' Garver Fund** for a \$1,200 grant for Connections field trips by the Bellefonte Middle School sixth graders.

Art Gover from Penn State for providing invasive species treatment at ClearWater's

THANK YOU

Harding Farm, Blue Springs Park, and Umberger Farm riparian buffer conservation sites.

Sue Tumlinson, Madeline LaBorde, and Joe Bishop for assisting with new member prospect letters.

Dave Jackson, Mike Palko, Travis Weinzierl, Dustin Moore, Brent Harding, Paul Lupo, Noreen Davis, Deb Tencer, Cindy Patrick, Richard Shreve, Jean Najjar, Karl Striedieck, and Alan Swann for volunteering for the Musser Gap Deer Density and Browse Impact Survey.

Lucy Boyce, Steve Schroeder, Joe Boston, Rob Berghage, Eric Burkhart, and Larry Fennessey for their support of ClearWater's Growing Native Program.

Tim Murtha for completing the Musser Gap Greenway Archaeological Survey in such a short timeframe.

Kathy Gipe and Susan Buda for leading the Arbor Day planting at Masullo Memorial Park.

Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival

Continued from page 1

"The films tell a story about our planet, highlighting issues, providing solutions and giving a call to action," says Tour Manager, Susie Sutphin.

"Their collective energy empowers communities to initiate conversations that can bring about compromise and collaborative efforts that positively impact our wild places."

The evening will provide a special opportunity for the local community to see award-winning films that highlight a wide array of environmental issues and stories. From "Last Descent", a film that chronicles a group of world-class kayakers as they descend some of the world's most amazing, albeit environmentally threatened, rivers, to "Historia de un Letrero", an emotionally stirring, six-minute film that won a 2008 Cannes Film Festival award, the Wild and Scenic Film Festival On Tour showcases a diverse assortment of film genres and environmental issues.

One film in particular, "Division Street", documenting a filmmaker's road trip across North America in an effort to highlight the importance of roadless areas and wildlife corridors, closely relates to local conservation efforts.

ClearWater Conservancy is currently working to construct a wildlife corridor in the Centre Region in an effort to preserve and protect the exceptional ecological value of the Scotia Barrens. For more information about this project, visit www.clearwaterconservancy.org/Halfmoon%20Wildlife%20Corridor.htm.

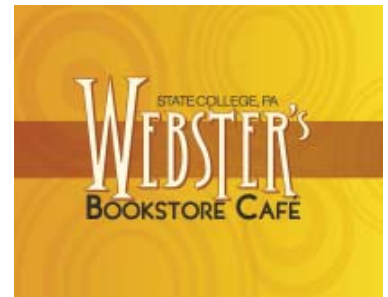
Proceeds from ticket sales for the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival will go toward the Halfmoon Wildlife Corridor conservation effort. The event is hosted by Appalachian Outdoors to benefit ClearWater Conservancy. Tickets are \$8 if purchased in advance and \$10 if purchased at the event.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Appalachian Outdoors or ClearWater Conservancy. For mail order or will call tickets, contact ClearWater Conservancy at (814) 237-0400.

For more information about the event and to preview a movie trailer, visit www.clearwaterconservancy.org/wild.htm.



**Thanks to our
Local Sponsors!**



rowlandcreative[®]



You know what they're not making more of? That's right. Land.

And it's also not going to become any cheaper. The more expensive land becomes, the fewer opportunities ClearWater Conservancy, like most land trusts, will have to protect our vital natural resources.

Over the years, ClearWater has recognized the need to have cash readily available to take advantage of those rare opportunities that arise to acquire ecologically important lands. Of course we can and do successfully obtain grants for land purchases, but it takes time (sometimes up to 2 years) to work through the grant process. Even with a successful grant application, matching funds must be secured unless an altruistic landowner is willing to donate the rest of the land value through a bargain sale. Thankfully many landowners we work with are in a position to do this, but the reality is that just as many landowners we work with do not have this luxury.

If a landowner cannot donate the remaining value of his or her land, fundraising for the grant match becomes a daunting task for ClearWater's staff and Board. Our new Operation Conservation is one way for us to reach out to prospective donors and encourage investment in our community's natural resources.

With our world's current economic challenges, and even during good economic times, continuing to diversify our fundraising so that we don't rely too heavily on grant applications or prospective major donors is a good practice. Looking creatively at this reality led us to the birth of The Green Cents Program.

The Green Cents Program is a relatively sustainable economic model to raise funds for land purchases. The funds may be used to match grants or when there may not be the time to obtain a grant before an opportunity may vanish.

The concept is simple and similar to models used by other non-profit organizations. ClearWater Conservancy will work with local merchants to develop a way for customers to voluntarily contribute to conservation with each purchase. Each merchant will determine whether the contribution should be a nominal 1% of the purchase or a set amount such as \$1.00.

The system is easy to set up by the merchant and requires minimal time. Of course, ClearWater staff are readily available to lend assistance to the merchant to ensure a smooth transition.

Benefits of The Green Cents Program to the merchant include:

- ◆ Branding with ClearWater Conservancy
- ◆ Being known as a "green vendor"
- ◆ ClearWater media acknowledgements
- ◆ Recognition by peers
- ◆ Increasing sales

The public benefits as well. All funds collected, minus a small administrative program fee, will be used by ClearWater Conservancy to purchase land locally. This conserved land will be accessible to the public for recreation and education.



ClearWater Conservancy already has a successful track record of participating in land purchases for public benefit:

- ◆ State Game Land 323 in Curtain Township, now owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission
- ◆ Thompson Woods Preserve, now owned by College Township and State College Borough and managed by Centre Region Parks and Recreation
- ◆ Musser Gap Forest Gateway, now owned by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry

In May, ClearWater kicked off The Green Cents Program with Appalachian Outdoors. We are making plans to involve additional businesses, but we could use your help in two ways. First, support and thank businesses such as Appalachian Outdoors for their commitment to helping us raise the funds we need to complete important land purchases. Second, if you know a merchant that may also be interested in participating in ClearWater's Green Cents Program, mention it to them, and give us a call so we may present The Green Cents Program to them.

With enough imagination, together we can conserve our area's precious natural resources and assure more open lands for the public to use and enjoy.

The Green Cents Program Launched at Appalachian Outdoors' Ladies' Night

Appalachian Outdoors became ClearWater Conservancy's first Green Cents Program merchant. Geoff Brugler, owner of Appalachian Outdoors, graciously launched The Green Cents Program during their popular annual Ladies' Night in May. The Green Cents Program is a new and novel way to raise funds to purchase ecologically important land.

Ladies' Night was the perfect night to launch, according to Ieva Perkons, Outreach Coordi-

nator at ClearWater. Ieva worked with Appalachian's staff to set up the registers, motivated the staff to ask customers to contribute \$1 to purchase land for public use and conservation, and informed customers about the program. For The Green Cents Program to be successful, we need you to support participating businesses such as Appalachian Outdoors.

Watch future issues of ClearWater News and ClearWater's email listserv for information on

additional businesses participating in The Green Cents Program. For your shopping convenience, links to participating businesses will be posted on our web site at www.clearwaterconservancy.org/greencents.

If your business is interested in being a Green Cents Program participant, please contact Bill at 237-0400 or bill@clearwaterconservancy.org.

ClearWater Newsbriefs...

SPRING CREEK CANYON MASTER PLAN

The final version of the Spring Creek Canyon Master Plan is available on Benner Township's website at <http://benner.centreconnect.org/rockview.htm> or under the Project Info: Reports tab at www.canyonplanning.com.

BARRENS PLANT SURVEY AT ROCKVIEW

Based on the Spring Creek Canyon Master Plan and the *Conservation Values of the Rockview Divestment Lands* document prepared by the Master Plan's Technical Advisory Committee as an appendix to the Plan, ClearWater Conservancy and Rockview State Correctional Institution began partnering to identify and conserve natural resources on the Rockview property.

While working through the planning process, ClearWater determined that the underlying geology on the north side of Spring Creek is the Gatesburg Formation with Morrison Soils. This part of the site would therefore likely support pitch pine-scrub oak barrens, a rare plant community.

Rockview granted ClearWater volunteer Harry Henderson permission to conduct weekly searches for rare barrens plant communities at targeted areas of the property throughout the summer. In only two weeks of searching, Harry has already found numerous barrens plants, including one plant of concern and a skipper of concern.

Watch the newsletter for a final report from Harry this fall.



Lupine discovered on the north side of Spring Creek at Rockview.

A SPORTING-GOOD SALE!

Got some used sports equipment that you'd like to donate?

The committee for ClearWater's Spring Creek Day has come up with a new fundraiser idea! We are asking everyone to take a look through their old, but good sports equipment and donate it to ClearWater to be sold on Spring Creek Day on October 4th.

We are looking for anything that someone else might find to be a treasure... like golf clubs, skis, baseball gloves, kids bikes, adult bikes, bats, tennis rackets, roller blades, hiking equipment, bird watching glasses... the list goes on. Someone has already said they are donating the canoe that has been taking up too much space in their basement!

So here's the scoop... look through your items and price them with either a string tag or a piece of tape. You get to mark the price! Then on Sunday, October 4th, please deliver the item(s) to Spring Creek Day at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. The items will be sold and the money will be used this year to purchase event tents and, if we make enough money, a portable sound system!

The committee is hoping this event will grow over the years, much like the AAUW Book Sale. With your first year participation, we can't help but be successful!!

Thanks from the Spring Creek Day Committee!

VERNAL POOL PARTNERSHIP

ClearWater Conservancy is partnering with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy of Pennsylvania in 2009-2010 to teach residents and

landowners about the importance of vernal pools and to identify and engage landowners interested in the conservation of these unique natural resources.

Vernal pools, also called seasonal pools, are a unique wetland type that fill with water in the fall, winter, or spring but are dry during the summer. Vernal pools are critical breeding habitat for some amphibians and invertebrates, some of which are rare, threatened, or endangered species.

If you know the location of a vernal pool, please let us know so that we can add it to our expanding database. If you own a vernal pool and are interested in learning more about them or have interest in learning how you can conserve these unique habitats, please contact Katie at ClearWater Conservancy.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation & Conservation, administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

GOING GREEN WITH THE STATE COLLEGE SPIKES

ClearWater Conservancy will have a booth at the five Going Green Nights at the State College Spikes this year! The dates of these home Tuesday night games are June 30, July 7 & 21, and August 4 & 11. We will also be at the Spikes Super Splash Day, a noon game on July 22.

ClearWater is selling tickets to ANY of these six games for \$9 per ticket, with seating in the first base field box. \$2 of each ticket purchased

benefits ClearWater Conservancy. To purchase tickets and support ClearWater Conservancy while enjoying a great night out at the ball park, contact Sarah at sarah@clearwaterconservancy.org or 237-0400.

MUSSER GAP GREENWAY

While working with the PA Historical and Museum Commission, the Musser Gap Greenway project partners learned that a Phase I Archaeological Survey was required in order to obtain the necessary permit. The survey was triggered because the greenway will be in close proximity to Slab Cabin Run and therefore has a high likelihood of containing artifacts.

Dr. Tim Murtha from Penn State Department of Landscape Architecture is currently conducting the survey for Penn State. Although this was an unanticipated activity, the Musser Gap Greenway is still on track to be completed this fall.

OTTO'S GOLF-FEST 2009

Corporate sponsors are still needed for our popular golf tournament that will be held on Monday, August 31 at the State College Elks Club in Boalsburg, along the headwaters of Spring Creek.

Special thanks to our early-committing GOLD sponsors: Gilbane, Johnson Controls, Sheetz & Pepsi, and Whiting-Turner!

Available sponsorships include:

Gold - \$2,500 with 8 complimentary golfers

Carts - \$2,000 with 4 complimentary golfers and signs on every cart

Silver - \$1,300 with 4 complimentary golfers



Hikers and bikers anxiously await the Musser Gap Greenway connection.

Bronze - \$700 with 2 complimentary golfers

Hole or Prize - \$300

Detailed tournament information, including the Sponsor and Golfer Registration Form can be found at www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.htm. Also check out the new video posted on the Otto's Golf-Fest page created by our spring intern, Lindsay Franks!

Sponsors get preference for the afternoon foursomes, so plan ahead now for a fun-filled day to support conservation and restoration. We have also opened the individual golfer registration; sign up now!

The planning committee is seeking prizes for the event. To donate an item, contact Jen at 237-0400 or jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org.



ClearWater **Newsbriefs...**

CONSERVATIONTOOLS.ORG

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association launched the **BETA** site for **ConservationTools.org** at their annual conference in May. This site will grow into a one-stop resource for advancing conservation knowledge. The site-in-progress currently includes:

Tools: Succinct summaries of tools to help you quickly assess what best matches your situation as well as detailed descriptions and links to relevant publications and experts.

Library: PDFs, text files, weblinks and more.

Experts: Directory of people who can advise and help with implementation of conservation endeavors.

Events: Conferences, workshops and other events of regional or statewide interest.

Glossary: Conservation terms defined and acronyms spelled out.

Conservation Organizations: A directory of land trusts, watershed associations and other conservation organizations.

MUSSER GAP DEER DENSITY AND BROWSE IMPACT STUDY

Members of the Musser Gap Stewardship Committee and several volunteers completed a deer density and browse impact survey on March 27th in Musser Gap and several surrounding private properties.

The survey was conducted to estimate deer impact on the understory vegetation. Data was collected using the protocol from DCNR's 2006 *Browsing Impact Report for the Pennsylvania State Forests* and will be used to support future restoration initiatives.

Volunteers collected data on 229 study plots spanning over five miles of transect lines. Using the pellet group count method, the deer density was estimated at 27 deer per square mile.

In total, 21 woody plant species were identified, and 36% of the area had no woody species present in the understory. Of all the woody plant species counted, 70% were vaccinium species, striped maple, Japanese barberry, red maple, hemlock, black birch, spicebush, and multi-flora rose.

These species, with the exception of hemlock are characteristic of landscapes where deer impact is high. Browse impact was substantial, where 47% of the woody plant species were characterized as moderately or heavily/severely browsed.

Thanks to the private landowners who granted us access to their properties and the staff members from DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Penn State School of Forest Resources, Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy who helped support this effort.



Dave Jackson

Striped Maple browsed by deer.

Beatty Memorial Arbor Day Plantings

Tremendous volunteerism enabled ClearWater to hold *two* Alice and George Beatty Memorial Arbor Day Plantings in the community this year.

The first was at Masullo Memorial Park in Bellefonte where 21 volunteers planted 115 native trees and shrubs to supplement the 2007 Arbor Day planting along the confluence of Spring Creek and Logan Branch. Volunteers also mulched the plantings to reduce competition from weeds.

A big thanks to Penn State students from the University's "Into the Streets" Program and the Bellefonte Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Thanks also to Don Holderman and Rodney Mitchell of Bellefonte Borough for helping to

coordinate the event and for spreading mulch.

Our second Arbor Day project was at the Penn State Sheep Farm where nearly 80 volunteers from Blue Mountain Quality Resources and Comcast planted 380 native shrubs along Spring Creek to supplement the 2008 Arbor Day tree planting. Volunteers also spread over 20 yards of mulch around all trees that were planted last year to help reduce competition from weeds during this year's growing season.

Thanks to Jeff Dice, George McConnell, Nadine Davitt, and Randy Swope of Penn State for providing volunteer support services and mulch.

Thanks to our 2009 Arbor Day Sponsors:



Legacy

To those I love I do bequeath
my worldly goods of greatest worth,
the treasured scenes of earthly life,
herewith, herein set forth.

A mystic gray of river mist
from night-chilled, splashing streams
at dawn,
concealing all the hidden nooks
where darting trout have gone.

A lonesome painted trillium
smiles gently, as it sees a friend.
Our kindred souls commune,
and thus our ragged spirits mend.

A flash of fiery crimson life,
now captured by the sun's first rays,
as scarlet tanager greets day
with joyful notes of praise.

A fleeting golden moment
filled with rushing flight of eagle's
wings.

A patch of bluest autumn sky.
A mossy vale where wood thrush
sings.

A diamond pendant full of stars,
adorning still a summer night.
Some snowflake lace, and jewels of
ice,
which crown the wintery light.

A memory of gushing springs,
The source of life, delicious youth,
to quench the thirst, and cool the brow,
and realize eternal truth.

And last but most importantly,
I leave to those I cherish dear
the rainbows I've been saving,
which are seen in every tear.

Jean Aron, 1982

Excerpted from Jean's new book, *Outside In*, which is available for \$18 at <http://aronpublications.com> or by emailing shorthiker@aol.com.

Happy Valley Refreshment



Where uBelong!

Ways You Can Help ClearWater Financially

by James M Rayback, Attorney and member of ClearWater Conservancy Board of Directors

Lifetime Gifts

During your lifetime you may give to ClearWater a charitable contribution, which is deductible from your federal income tax. The amount of the gift that you may give is unlimited, but it is constrained by the federal tax law in that most persons who give charitable gifts during their lifetime desire to deduct as much as possible from their income tax, and federal law has certain limits on the amount that can be deducted. You need to talk to your tax accountant or carefully review the federal tax law to be certain of the amount that you are allowed to deduct each year.

Will

You may give to ClearWater through your Will. Since ClearWater is a recognized charity, at the time of your death you may give as much as you want, to include your whole estate. Everything that you give to charity by your Will is deducted from the value of your estate for Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax purposes. If you give one million dollars to ClearWater, and the value of your estate is one million dollars, then you have no Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax to pay, because of your charitable gift. The charitable gift exclusion also applies to your federal estate tax, but you only have to worry about a federal estate tax if you have assets over 3.5 million dollars in 2009. Thus, if you wish to reduce the amount that you pay either the federal government or the state government, one very simple method is to make large charitable gifts to ClearWater through your Will, which will reduce the size of your taxable estate at death.

IRA Distributions

Another method of making charitable gifts to ClearWater is through your IRA account. You may name ClearWater as a beneficiary in your IRA plan. If you have a \$100,000 IRA account, and you name ClearWater Conservancy as a 50% beneficiary, then 50% of the value of your IRA at the time of your death will pass to

ClearWater. The advantage is to your estate. IRAs are subject to Pennsylvania inheritance tax, Pennsylvania income tax, and Federal income tax. In addition, if your estate is large enough there is a possibility of a federal estate tax. The taxes that may be imposed upon an IRA are terrific. By using the IRA to make a gift, you may reduce the above noted taxes that you will be required to pay at the time of your death, and at the same time benefit ClearWater.

Living Trusts

If you have a living trust, established either in Pennsylvania or in another state, you may make a provision within the trust that will give a gift to ClearWater at the time of your death. The set up is basically the same as in a Will. The idea is to make a charitable gift at the time of death so as to reduce the value of the estate that is subject to Pennsylvania inheritance tax or federal estate tax. Remember that charitable gifts reduce the size of the gross estate and thereby subject the estate to less value to be taxed, which is a saving for your estate, and at the same time it provides assets for ClearWater.

Life Insurance

You may use your life insurance policy to make a charitable gift at the time of your death. Life insurance policies provide for the naming of beneficiaries who are to be paid the proceeds at the time of your death. One of the beneficiaries to be named in your life insurance policy can be ClearWater Conservancy. If you do use life insurance to make a charitable gift at the time of your death, the value of the asset is deducted from the value of the gross estate, thereby creating a smaller net estate. The smaller net estate is subject to tax by the federal estate tax, but Pennsylvania does not tax life insurance, and therefore, the savings to the estate is not as great as, for example, naming a beneficiary in an IRA account. Pennsylvania does not tax life insurance proceeds when they are paid out at the time of the decedent's death. Thus, the size of the Pennsylvania taxable estate is not reduced by using life insurance proceeds as a

charitable means of assisting ClearWater, but it is still a good way of using assets that are not cash in your estate and helping ClearWater.

Appreciated Stock

If you are one of those who could foresee the future and you know that one of your stock holdings is going to increase in value over time, another method of aiding your estate and ClearWater at the same time is to transfer the stock to ClearWater Conservancy. Once you have transferred the stock to ClearWater it is now out of your estate and no longer produces income for your estate, which is a tax savings to you. In addition, since you have moved the asset from your estate and made a gift of it to ClearWater, the item is considered a charitable bequest during your lifetime and thus you may take an income tax deduction for the transfer. Another advantage to you is that the stock, which appreciates over time, is no longer in your estate at the time of your death and therefore you have moved an asset out of your estate which would be subject to tax, and the tax would be higher because the asset is appreciating. ClearWater benefits by receiving the item from you during your lifetime.

Centre County Community Foundation

Either lifetime or at death gifts made to the Centre County Community Foundation may be designated to either the "ClearWater Conservancy Fund" or the "ClearWater Conservancy Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund". Assets may be transferred to the Centre County Community Foundation by gift, Will, trust, life insurance or IRA. If you wish, you may create your own account with the Centre County Community Foundation for as little as \$10,000.00 and name ClearWater Conservancy as a beneficiary. You may name the fund for yourself or another, and the income generated by the fund each year will then be paid to ClearWater in perpetuity.



A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Hello Friends...

My recent quarterly meeting with the PA Land Trust Association Policy Committee in Harrisburg focused on the need for land trusts throughout the Commonwealth to strongly advocate for the proposed **Natural Gas Severance Tax** with dedicated funding to the Environmental Stewardship Fund. **An excellent summary of the issues can be found at www.landandwater.org.**

ClearWater Conservancy has signed on to a statement of support that includes:

1. A fair and reasonable tax on the extraction of natural gas.
2. Dedicating a portion of the tax to the Environmental Stewardship Fund and to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat and Game Commissions to restore wildlife habitat and improve public access.
3. Dedicating a portion of the tax to help local governments impacted by natural gas drilling operations.
4. Balance and restraint in leasing public lands for gas extraction. The impact of leasing 74,000 acres of state forest in 2008 and potential impacts of additional leasing should be carefully evaluated before opening up more public land for drilling.
5. When natural gas and other resources are taken from public forestlands, the revenues generated should be reinvested in the conservation and restoration of the Commonwealth's natural resources.

I encourage each of you to **learn more** about this important issue and then **take action** by asking our Senators Corman and Wozniak, Representatives Benninghoff, Conklin, and Hanna, and Governor Rendell to support a fair and reasonable tax on the extraction of natural gas with the dedication of a portion of the tax to the Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener) as well as to the PA Fish & Boat and Game Commissions.

The conclusion on the landandwater.org website sums it up well. "Gas drillers will be in Pennsylvania for many decades to come and so will their impacts. They should pay their fair share for their use of and impact to our resources. If we fail to reinvest in our natural resources as Pennsylvania's natural gas boom progresses, we will miss an historic opportunity to ensure that our descendants will receive a natural wealth equal to our own. We will miss an historic opportunity to invest in our communities so that they can prosper both during extraction activities and after the gas is gone."

Guided Organizational Assessment

When ClearWater Conservancy was just the spark of an idea in the late 1970s, we turned to the Brandywine Conservancy in southeastern Pennsylvania for advice in forming a land trust in Centre County. Now in 2009, we will be working with our earliest mentor once again.

Brandywine Conservancy was one of the first land trusts accredited by the national Land Trust Alliance in 2008. Through a grant from the PA Land Trust Association and a ClearWater cost-share, our Board of Directors and staff

will be taking the first step towards our own accreditation through a 6-month review of LTA's *Assessing Your Organization: Using Land Trust Standards and Practices*.

According to Sherri Evans-Stanton, Director of the Environmental Management Center at Brandywine Conservancy, the Guided Assessment will provide:

- ◆ A snapshot of our progress towards implementing *Land Trust Standards and Practices*

- ◆ Assistance in prioritizing activities to make implementation of *Land Trust Standards and Practices* manageable
- ◆ A baseline of organizational status from which to launch strategic and annual planning
- ◆ Assistance in helping us get ready for accreditation

We are looking forward to learning from Brandywine Conservancy and strengthening our management and governance through this process.

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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Summer 2009

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Thank you for your support!

ClearWater Conservancy

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