



Local Development Aids in Rare Fen Restoration Project

ClearWater Conservancy, the Hilton Garden Inn, Maxwell Trucking & Excavating, Inc. and the PSU Cooperative Wetlands Center cooperated to restore a portion of the rare Millbrook Marsh fen. The fen area was destroyed in the 1960s, as it became a common dumping area for landfill removed from other sites. The Hilton Garden Inn is being developed on a seven-acre site in the "Gateway Corridor" of College Township. This site borders the 60-acre Millbrook Marsh.

The developers of the Hilton Garden Inn in State College had decided that they were going to build a "green hotel", but have embraced other environmentally sound opportunities by approaching the ClearWater Conservancy to assemble local resources and advisors. Rob Brooks, director of Penn State's Cooperative Wetlands Center, who was developing a plan to restore Millbrook Marsh, was brought in to advise on the project. According to Brooks, landfill brought into the marsh in the 1960s destroyed the flood plain and the rare wetlands (fen). The developers have committed to not only restoring the wetland on their property, but the neighboring fen as well.



Artist's rendering of the new Hilton Garden Inn.

In addition to the wetland restoration, the developers plan to place a conservation easement on over 3 acres of their land, preventing future development on that parcel. A 100 ft riparian zone has been established as a buffer between Millbrook Marsh and Gateway Corridor developments, specifically bordering the site of the Hilton Garden Inn.

The Hilton garden Inn property management company, Hospitality Asset Management, has committed to allowing Millbrook Marsh and ClearWater Conservancy to have an educational kiosk on display in the lobby of the hotel. This will provide a terrific

opportunity to tell the ClearWater and Millbrook stories to the great variety of hotel guests and visitors.

ClearWater's New Logo

A new ClearWater Conservancy logo has been unveiled. Laurie Linton volunteered her time and skills in developing the new CWC look. Laurie is employed by SPE Federal Credit Union in State College. ClearWater wishes to thank Laurie for her dedication, and being a prime example of ClearWater volunteers helping to get things done.

Calendar

April 4

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

April 10, 17 & 24; May 1

Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30am
Free Migration Mornings Bird Walks, guided by naturalist Doug Wentzel, at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. Call 863-2000 to register.

April 17

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

April 19

Friday, 8:30pm
Skywatch, with the Central Pennsylvania Observers Club, at Tom Tudek Memorial Park. Call 861-5474.

April 20

Saturday, 12:00noon–2:00pm
Extra Junior Explorer Sensory Walk, ages 3-5 (with adult companion) can explore the woods and meadows at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, \$3 per child for members/\$4 nonmembers. Call 863-2000 to register.

April 22

Monday
Earth Day

April 22

Monday, 6:30pm
Access to Adventure Slide Show, presented at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center by David Holsworth, international climber who lives with the effects of multiple sclerosis. The show compares

the challenges of everyday life for those who are physically challenged with the extreme challenges of mountain climbing. Dessert follows Call 863-2000.

April 24

Wednesday, 5:30pm
DEP Central Penn Watershed Team Meeting. Beech Creek Community Building. Call 570-321-6525.

April 26

Friday
Arbor Day

April 27

Saturday, 8:30am–12noon
Centre Region Parks & Rec's Spring Spruce-up Day, help prepare parks and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center for spring and summer use. Held in cooperation with Mount Nittany Conservancy's Climb-up/Clean-up Day and Centre Rails to Trails Association's Trail Clearing Morning. Call 231-3071 or 234-0484 or e-mail rogilmore@psu.edu.

April 27

Saturday, 7:30–10:30pm
Full Moon Family Fun Night, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. Warm yourself by the campfire, learn about owls, take a hayride and enjoy a guided night hike. \$5 per person. Call 863-2000 to register.

May 4

Saturday, 9:00am–1:00pm
Watershed Cleanup Day, throughout Centre County. To volunteer, offer a truck or suggest cleanup sites, call the ClearWater Conservancy at 237-0400.



ClearWater Conservancy

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NEWS STAFF

Editor: Tracey Dooms
Layout: C Factor

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

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

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

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

Successful 'For the Love of Chocolate' Party

This year's "For the Love of Chocolate" party, held on Jan. 25 at the Penn Stater, was a *sweet* success thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and generous donations. The event raised \$9,000 for the ClearWater Conservancy!

Special thanks go to the following individuals:

- **Event Chairwomen:** Anne Layng and Kelleann Foster
- **Event Planning:** Anne Layng, Angie Mitchell, Kelleann Foster, Betty Harper and Natalie Proch
- **Hospitality:** The Penn Stater Conference Center
- **Photography:** Lynn Fosbender
- **Publicity/Promotions:** WMAJ, 3WZ, WPSU and WRSC
- **Volunteer Support:** Betty Harper (coordinator), Bob Carline, Burell Whitworth, David Pentland, Diane Evans, Jan Pisha, Jason Bell, Joe Banks, Julie and Zach Nelson, Kat Zimmerman, Kelli Gardner, Lynn and Jeremy Fosbender, Marge Seward, Mary Kaye Williams, Michelle Vogt, Molly Hetrick, Scott Sheeder, Sunshine Cheng
- **Entertainment:** A Train (band); Brandi Row, Ofer Harel, Rolando Ortega and Ivana Veljkovic (salsa dancers); and the PSU Magic Club!

Thank you to the following for their contributions:

Auction Donors

- Avant Garden
- Brenda Black
- College Gardens Nursery
- The Diner
- The Feathered Hook



- Ken Hull
 - Joe Humphreys
 - Reynolds Mansion
 - Spats Cafe and Speakeasy
 - Spruce Creek Tavern
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- Chocolates**
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Corporate Sponsors

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Businesses Selling Tickets

- Brewed Awakenings
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Confections

- Autoport
- Atherton Hotel
- Bellefonte Bakery
- Café 210
- Gingerbread Man
- Faccia Luna
- Hoag's Catering
- Hummingbird Room
- Heather Holland Luse

- Mad Mex at the Days Inn
- Penn Stater
- The Tavern
- Victorian Manor
- University Creamery

Thanks to Traci Manino, Francie Basalla and the Penn Stater Conference Center staff. A special thank you to the ClearWater Board members for all your support! Way to go, everyone!

Our thanks to...

■ Don Watson and Pat Houser for cleaning and helping Katie move into her new office and preparing the March *Springs & Sinks* mailing.

■ Lisa Philippe for her good work volunteering to prepare the Stewardship and Resources Committee and Board of Directors meeting minutes.

■ Kerry Yates and Jan Pisha for their years of service to the ClearWater Board. We will miss your insights and your dedication.

■ Tom Campitelli and Shana Tritsch for volunteering to revamp ClearWater's membership database.

■ The Centre County Community Foundation for granting the funds to the Centre County

Natural Heritage Inventory update.

■ The Youth Fellowship of the Trinity United Church of Christ in Hublersburg for donating a portion of the proceeds from their annual spaghetti supper fund raiser to local environmental efforts at the ClearWater Conservancy.

■ The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for their donation of a nice wooden display case for our ClearWater brochures and publications.

■ The ClearWater Directors for a productive Strategic Planning Retreat. Special thanks to Gene Proch for facilitating the planning process.

Out of the Red, Into the Clear

By Jason T. Bell

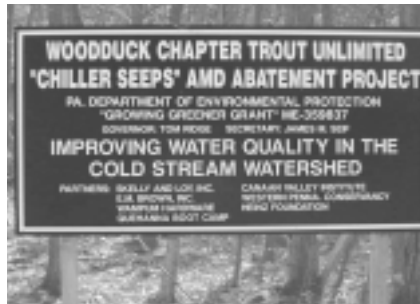
Fishermen stopped casting their lines into the lower reaches of Cold Stream more than five decades ago. The native trout were gone, and so were the aquatic insects and smaller fish that the trout fed upon.

The lower section of Cold Stream had died quietly. Like many other mountain streams in Pennsylvania that run above mined coal seams, this one-mile stretch of stream south of Phillipsburg in Clearfield County was poisoned slowly by abandoned mine drainage (AMD) seeping from the remains of the once-prosperous bituminous coal mines.

The water quality upstream from the AMD impacts is high, with an average pH of 6.2, and successfully supports native trout. Unfortunately, the 37 AMD discharges — ranging from 1 gallon per minute to 160 gallons per minute — degraded the water quality drastically. The water became laden with aluminum, iron and manganese and was very acidic, with an average pH of 2.8. From the point where the pollution entered the stream to Cold Stream's confluence with the Moshannon, the stream bed was red-stained and lifeless.

Abandoned mine drainage is an enormous problem in Pennsylvania. It pollutes more than 7,500 miles of streams and rivers in the United States, and the majority of the damaged streams in the Northeast are in western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. Pennsylvania alone has more than 3,000 miles of polluted streams and rivers. Mine drainage is the major source of stream degradation in the region and is responsible for half of the state's streams not meeting the standards of the Clean Water Act.

Bituminous coal mining guaranteed cheap, accessible fuel for the heavy industry of the region for more than a century, and mines of all types honey-combed the Clarion coal seam. After a



century of heavy use, however, many of the region's mines were abandoned as mining companies went out of existence.

The "Chiller Seeps"

In early 1979, Merlin Bock, Phillipsburg resident and current member of the Woodduck Chapter of Trout Unlimited, came upon a ditch winding its way off the mountain. Following it to its destination, Mr. Bock was astonished at the devastation before him: large snags sticking up through murky pools of polluted water, dying trees, lifeless land, red and foul smelling water. All this was in place of what was once a prominent forest. The area reminded him of the eerie opening scene of the old Saturday night television show "Chiller Theater." The name Chiller Seeps evolved from this and is actively used today by the Department of Environmental Protection and on modern topographic maps of the area.

The Woodduck Chapter of Trout Unlimited began watershed restoration efforts in the Cold Stream Watershed more than 15 years ago. In the mid 1980s, the

chapter was integral in the federal government's decision to designate the area as too fragile for more mining.

With future mining impacts eliminated, restoration of past damage could begin with confidence. In an area whose economic heights were a result of the mining industry, it is important to realize that that abandoned mine drainage issues were unheard of at the time. Regulations such as the Clean Water Act were not in place until many years after the 11 deep mines and three strip mines were in operation.

Woodduck TU members Merlin Bock, Cappy Hill and other volunteers had been monitoring all 37 discharges for four years. The samples were routinely sent to the state DEP labs, ensuring the highest quality results. With consistent monitoring and detailed base mapping, aided by Dr. Bill Hellier, former DEP wetlands coordinator, the Woodduck chapter had positioned themselves ready to coordinate a project to treat the problem.

Treating AMD often requires an elaborate network of government and private organizations to support each other. The Woodduck TU partnered with a wide array of individuals to bring this project to fruition. The PA Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Canaan Valley Institute, Skelly & Loy, EM Brown Construction, PA Department of Transportation and Quehanna Boot Camp were among the groups contributing their skills to the project. The Department of the Interior's Office of Surface

Phillipsburg's "Chiller Theatre."



Mining awarded the Wooduck TU a substantial grant to purchase the property needed for the treatment system. This was the first time that the Office of Surface Mining provided a land acquisition grant for this type of project. ClearWater Conservancy Board member Howard Greenberg volunteered his legal expertise for the land acquisition process.

The next step was the design and construction of a passive treatment system — a series of natural wetlands through which the water would be filtered. The completed system contains six ponds, the first of which is lined with four feet of limestone. The limestone lowers the pH, vital to the gradual process of the metals precipitating or “dropping out.” The water is pulled through the system by gravity, eliminating high maintenance and utility costs.

The term “passive” treatment is derived from the “hands off” way in which the system operates. The system is designed to speed up nature’s ability to heal itself, in a recreated natural setting. The wetland vegetation — cattails, sedges and reeds — help filter the water. In this particular system, the water entering the system has a pH of 2.8, and the treated water exiting the system into the receiving stream has a pH of 7.2, with very low amounts of metals. The tremendous efforts and dedication of the Woodduck Chapter Trout Unlimited and their many partners are proving successful.

The ClearWater Conservancy strives to bring awareness to Central Pennsylvania of the importance of “what we do here, affects those downstream.” The health of our local waterways affects the Susquehanna River and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. We are quite pleased to see our neighbors, the members of the Woodduck Chapter of Trout Unlimited, having such strong concern with not only the state of their local waterways but also the impacts that they have on the big picture. The chapter is not resting on its laurels: Plans are being developed for the treatment of other AMD problems within the watershed. With success on their resume, the Woodduck Chapter of Trout Unlimited is confident that the trout will soon be swimming again in these once lifeless stretches of Cold Stream.

Don't Let Another Tax Year Pass Without Conserving Your Land

April 15 doesn't have to be painful again next year. Instead, it can be a day you celebrate both your tax savings and the satisfaction of permanently conserving important open spaces.

The nation's 1,200-plus land trusts — nonprofit organizations that are independent of government and work hand-in-hand with landowners who choose to conserve their lands — offer a variety of ways you can permanently protect your open-space lands and perhaps shave your tax bill, including:

- Donating land to a nonprofit land trust
- Donating a conservation easement, which permanently limits the type and scope of development
- Selling the land to a land trust in a “bargain sale” for below-fair-market price.

Income Taxes

Under the Internal Revenue Code, for most gifts of appreciated land or conservation easements, a taxpayer can deduct up to 30 percent of his or her adjusted gross income in the year of the donation. If the value of the gift exceeds that deduction, the taxpayer can carry forward the balance for up to five additional years.

For example, if Mrs. Landowner has an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 and makes a gift of a conservation easement worth \$80,000, her deduction in the first year would be \$15,000. The balance can then be carried forward for each of five years until she has deducted the full \$80,000 value of her gift.

Estate Taxes

Because development pressures in most parts of the country have increased property values dramatically during the past 20 years, many people are forced to sell lands that have been in the family for generations in order to pay estate taxes.

Consider the Triple Bar Ranch, a fictional working ranch, but a true-to-life financial example. The family patriarch bought the ranch in the 1960s, when land was far less expensive. Today, it is worth \$1.25 million.

Mrs. Landowner is a widow, and the ranch comprises nearly her whole estate. She and her husband accumulated just \$250,000 in other assets. Therefore, her total estate is worth \$1.5 million. In nearly every state, the combined state and federal estate taxes would be around \$200,000 — more than the surviving Landowner children could afford to pay, even though they want to see the ranch remain as open space.

The solution may be the voluntary donation of a conservation easement, which legally limits the amount and type of development that can take place on land. An easement can be tailored to a landowner's desires.

The easement may, for example, permit construction of just two more large-lot homes but protect the land from construction of a subdivision. As a result, Mrs. Landowner may reduce the land's market value to \$750,000, down from its current \$1.25 million value. Her estate, including \$250,000 in other assets, would then be worth \$1 million, and no estate taxes would be due.

The Growing Use of Conservation Easements

The nation's private, nonprofit land trusts have been tremendously successful at land protection. Grassroots land trusts had permanently protected more than 6.2 million acres by the end of 2000. Of that, approximately 2.6 million acres was protected by conservation easements. That is five times the amount of land protected by conservation easements as of 1990.

Reprinted with permission from the Land Trust Alliance.

Garlic Mustard Is Tough Competition

Lynn Fosbender

It's easy to assume that the plants and animals we see frequently have always been here. In actuality, many commonly encountered plants and animals, such as barberry, privet, house sparrows, pheasants, starlings, night crawlers and brown trout, have been brought to the region from other places. Many of these have settled in quite successfully, finding an ecological niche to fill without the bother of the predators and competition with which they co-evolved.

While some of these introductions have been beneficial to humans (the honeybee, for example), others have caused ecological, economic and health problems. The success of these nonnative plants and animals is often at the expense of native ones, leading many to consider nonnative species one of the greatest threats to native biodiversity. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is one of these too-successful transplants.

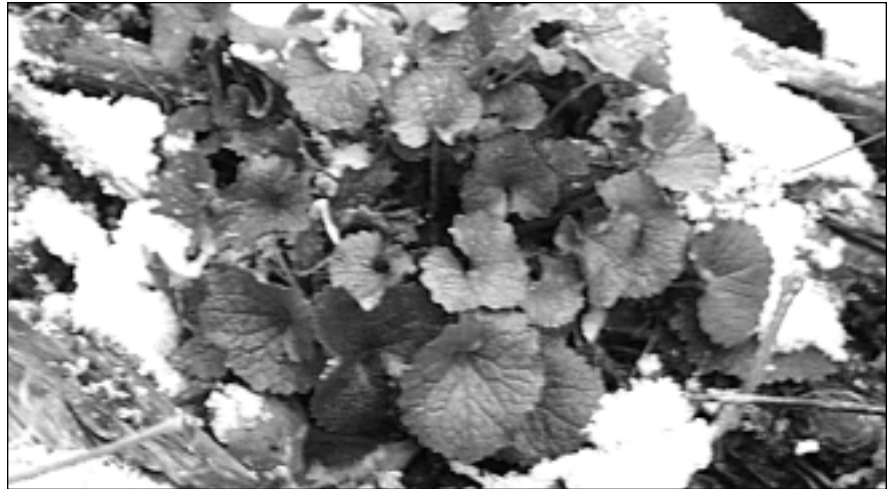
What does it look like?

That depends. Garlic mustard is a biennial. Its first year of growth is a rosette form, and its second year is a taller, flower- and fruit-bearing form. In the rosette form, the low-growing (4 to 6 inches) plant's dark green, kidney-shaped leaves are 2 to 4 inches wide with scalloped edges. In its second year, the leaves are more triangular, sharply toothed and 1 to 3 inches in width and length, becoming smaller toward the top of the plant. This form grows between 2 and 3½ feet tall, with small white flowers appearing in April or May.

Garlic mustard is easily confused with violets. One way to confirm what you're looking at is garlic mustard is to crush a leaf and smell it. Garlic mustard has a distinct garlic smell. Another characteristic is the slender white taproot, which typically forms an "s" just below the base of the stem.

How did it get here?

Garlic mustard was most likely brought to the United States by early colonists for its perceived medicinal and culinary uses. Native primarily to northern



Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

Europe, garlic mustard was first documented in the United States on Long Island, N.Y., in 1868.

Preferred habitat

Garlic mustard performed very well in the United States — too well, in fact. Already a serious problem in Pennsylvania, garlic mustard is spreading westward. The plant can be found primarily in wet or moist forests and habitat edges, as well as in residential areas. Disturbed soil encourages the growth of garlic mustard, and although it can grow in dense shade or sun, it is more likely to occur in areas that are shaded for at least part of the day. Garlic mustard is often associated with calcareous soils, which are common to this area, making conditions just right here.

Able to flourish in this range of environments, garlic mustard can blanket an area quickly, monopolizing light, water and nutrients, thereby displacing native plants. It emerges from seed in the ground far earlier than native plants in the spring and typically remains green throughout the fall and winter. This long growing period means it gets a head start, shading native plants before they have a chance to get started. Also, herbivores prefer native plants to garlic mustard, which also contributes to its success. By displacing native plants, garlic mustard lowers diversity and degrades the habitat for native animals.

Sound familiar?

If you have garlic mustard growing in your yard and you don't want it there, put on your gloves and get to work. Once established, garlic mustard is difficult to control, so your success will be greatest if you catch it early.

The bad news: No method has a 100% success rate on the first try, and methods for control are still debated. The best method for a small infestation is to pull out the plants, including all roots, before the seed is set. If you do so, minimize disturbance to the soil and do not compost the plants, as any seeds that may hitch a ride in the soil can remain viable for five years.

Another method is to cut the plants at ground level at the onset of flowers, just before the seeds set. Spraying the plants with herbicide is another (albeit controversial) method for control. The use of herbicide should be a last resort. Glyphosate (Roundup) is the recommended product, as it stays in the soil for only two days. Caution should be taken with this herbicide; it is non-specific and will kill anything it comes in contact with, including native plants.

Count on your efforts requiring several attempts, whatever method you choose, before the garlic mustard is under control. Just remember that it's easier to control it now than it will be later.



Hello, friends!

Do you know what your Board of Directors was up to on a fine Groundhog Day Saturday? Instead of being outside, enjoying the sunshine, they spent the day engaged in organizational strategic planning for the year 2002 and beyond.

The Board, twenty-three volunteers with a diverse array of talents and experiences, is shaping into a great group this year. Facilitated by Director Gene Proch, they created a Vision Statement for ClearWater, revised our Mission Statement, and drafted Strategic Goals that day. (Read these new Statements and Goals in the box on page 2.) Since the Retreat, committees of Board members, volunteers, and staff have been fleshing out the details to our Strategic Plan by defining the critical success factors and action items needed to carry out each of the new Strategic Goals.

This time and effort will yield a fruitful harvest. A Strategic Plan will enable us to monitor and prioritize our projects and activities, demonstrate to the community our organization's level of professionalism, and persuade our funders to continue their generous support. In addition, we have an opportunity coming up in late April to tell our story to a couple of the large philanthropies in western Pennsylvania. Our Strategic Plan will lay the foundation for a more diverse range of financial support for our important land protection, watershed stewardship, and environmental education efforts in the future.

As an organization, it is time to say goodbye to two of ClearWater's very dedicated and professional staff members, Roxanne Shiels and Julie Nelson. The *Vision 2020* grant that funded their positions is complete, and they will be moving on to other opportunities. Though we are saddened by their departure, we wish them the best in their future endeavors. Please join me in thanking them for all they have done for ClearWater and the community.

And finally, don't forget that spring is a great time of year for getting out into the community for special environmental events. Join the fun by getting involved in the Earth Day, Arbor Day, or Watershed Cleanup Day activities in the months of April and May.

Peace be with you,

Jennifer

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

Membership Level

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Payment

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

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Signature _____

Membership Level

- Visionary \$5,000
- Leader \$2,500
- Steward \$1000
- Grand Patron \$750
- Patron \$500
- Sponsor \$250
- Friend \$100

Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Contact _____

Payment

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

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Signature _____

The ClearWater Conservancy
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phone: 814-237-0400
www.clearwaterconservancy.org

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April 2002

*Please check the date
on your mailing label.*

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

We'd hate to lose you!

ClearWater News

2002 Watershed Cleanup Day

Watershed cleanup day 2002 is Saturday May 4, from 9:00am-1:00pm. Individuals and organizations are invited to help clean up streams, roadways and sink holes. All ages are encouraged to participate in this effort.

Watershed Cleanup day will coincide with Watershed awareness Month, being recognized in PA, NY, and MD. The Centre County government is supporting these efforts by creating a proclamation that this day be officially recognized.

2001 Cleanup Day yielded 35 Tons of Trash!



The massive cleanup will be assisted by volunteers from area businesses, industry, environmental and civic groups, schools, and state and local agencies. To volunteer, offer a truck or to suggest cleanup sites, contact Jason at ClearWater 237-0400.

Please volunteer to encourage beautification of our local environment.

A ClearWater volunteer will be stationed at Appalachian Ski & Outdoor on Cleanup Day to sign up new members to the organization. There will be raffles for new members, and Appalachian Ski & Outdoor has committed to generously donate a percentage of their sales that day to ClearWater Conservancy. A big thank you to Geoff Bruegler and the ASO crew!

