



## THE SPRING CREEK CANYON

*In 1994, the Department of Landscape Architecture completed the Spring Creek Corridor Study for ClearWater Conservancy. The study was eventually incorporated into the Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, which guides ClearWater's land and water conservation activities to this day. A key recommendation of the Corridor Study was the creation of a Spring Creek Canyon Nature Reserve.*

*Under Rockview ownership and stewardship, the Spring Creek Canyon and its exceptional natural resources have been protected for many decades. As state and local decision-makers contemplate the future of the Spring Creek Canyon, ClearWater would like take the opportunity to remind the community of the beauty and the fragility of this exceptional natural resource.*

*The following is an excerpt from the Spring Creek Corridor Study...  
A Reserve for Nature and Scenic Beauty Linking our Communities.*

The most extraordinary and ecologically important assemblage of natural landscapes and scenic beauty on Spring Creek is found in the dramatic canyon the stream has carved through the limestone bedrock as it descends from State College toward Bellefonte. Located primarily on lands controlled by the State Correctional Institution at Rockview, between the historic community of Rock and the area just downstream of Fisherman's Paradise, the marvelous Spring Creek Canyon is completely unknown to most residents of our region.

Protected since 1925 by the stewardship of the Rockview S.C.I. and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Spring Creek Canyon

contains large contiguous areas of rare mature native forests; rare and endangered species and natural communities; dramatic two hundred foot high limestone cliffs; historic resources such as the site of Philip Benner's house and iron furnace and the Benner family cemetery, an important local lineage; exceptional trout habitat; wonderful recreational opportunities; and the most beautiful scenic vistas of the twisting, forested canyon in all of Centre County.

It is important that the Spring Creek Canyon be conserved in order to protect these important resources for future generations, for the contribution they make to the quality of life in the region, and to enhance public access

to the canyon under carefully designed conditions which would protect the canyon's ecological systems and respect the operations of the relevant public institutions.

All of these important natural, scenic, and historic resources are found right in the geographic center of our growing community – literally a green heart for the Bellefonte-State College metropolitan area. Spring Creek Canyon is also an important open space, reserved from development, which could link the diverse local communities with natural areas and recreational paths. Spring Creek Canyon is among the most important of our assets which enhance the quality of life in the region.



# Calendar

## Monthly Meetings

ClearWater Board of Directors  
**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 7:30 – 9 am**

Spring Creek Watershed Community  
Coordinating Committee  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7 – 9 am, Patton Twp.**

Land Conservation & Stewardship  
Committee  
**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7:30 – 9 am**

Spring Creek Watershed Commission  
**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, odd mos., 5:30 – 8 pm**

## Special Opportunities

**August 8 – 14**

Centre County's First Annual Local  
Foods Week. Buy local; celebrate the  
bounty of our local harvest. Visit  
[www.buylocalpa.org](http://www.buylocalpa.org).

**August 25, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**

Stream Stewardship Workshop, Harris  
Township Municipal Building, 244 East  
Main Street, Boalsburg. Co-hosted by  
ClearWater and the Spring Creek  
Chapter of Trout Unlimited; call Lynn at

237-0400 to register by August 18.

**September 5, 11 am – 6 pm**

Penns Valley Conservation  
Association's Crickfest, at "The Forks",  
the junction of Pine, Elk, and Penns  
Creeks, Coburn Park. Call (814) 349-  
8155.

**September 19, 1 – 5 pm**

Spring Creek Day, Fisherman's Para-  
dise. Call 237-0400.

**October 13, 14, & 16**

Better Stormwater Management  
through Site Design workshop, Penn-  
sylvania Environmental Council. Call  
(717) 230-8044 x15.

**November 16**

ClearWater Conservancy Annual  
Meeting & Dinner, RSVP at 237-0400.

**January 16**

"For the Love of Art & Chocolate" Art  
Preview Exhibition, Art Alliance,  
Lemont.

**January 19, 7 – 10 pm**

"For the Love of Art & Chocolate",  
Ramada Inn and Conference Center.

## Our thanks to...

**Margaret Kendall** for her generous  
contribution to the ClearWater Conser-  
vancy Fund at the Centre County  
Community Foundation.

**Carolyn Mahan & Kurt Engstrom** for  
hosting the annual ClearWater Board  
picnic.

Our faithful Monday morning RSVP  
volunteers, **Art & Eleanor Tyson**, as well  
as **Marj Seward, Mary Anne Crafts,**  
**Ernie Hawk, Bryce Boyer, and Don**  
**Watson** for great help around the office.

Our Thompson Woods Preserve trail  
clearing volunteers: **Pat Morse, Bob**  
**Donaldson, Holly Fritchman, David &**  
**Alex Whiteman, Kathy Derge & Phil**  
**Gipe, Beth Parker, Jean & Stephanie**  
**Chamberlin, Mike Croft, Abbey Rhode,**  
**Amy Liszka, Todd Litzinger, and Tim**

**Leso.** Thanks also to **EMS** for sponsoring  
the National Trails Day event.

Dedicated volunteers on the Finance and  
the newly-rejuvenated Development  
Committee including **Pat Morse, Diane**  
**Kerly, Max Gill, Brian McCullough, Don**  
**Hamer, Denny Zwigart, Mac Rayback,**  
**Ellie Beaver, Heidi Nicholas, Pat**  
**Hawbaker, Bonnie Hutchinson, Tom**  
**Songer, and Dave Whiteman.**

Young volunteers from **4-H Clubs** across  
the state who helped remove invasive  
species from the PA Military Museum  
restoration site.

**Louise Tukey, Bob Rightmyer, Kathy**  
**Derge, and Frank Higdon** for donating  
tools for our Riparian Restoration Crew.  
Also to **Shaver's Creek** for loaning a  
weed wrench and to **Holly Fritchman** for

## WISHING FOR...

Our new Riparian Conservation Pro-  
gram is underway. If you would like to  
make a donation to help us purchase  
the following reference materials,  
please contact Brooks Parker, at 237-  
0400 or  
[brooks@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:brooks@clearwaterconservancy.org).

- *The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas* (Rhoads and Klein 1993) \$25
- *The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual* (Rhodes) \$70
- *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Dirr) \$64
- *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs* (Dirr) \$80
- *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (National Geographic) \$22
- Several field guides and PA Game Commission publications \$150

We also still need the following garden-  
ing tools and equipment. To donate,  
please contact Katie at  
[katie@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:katie@clearwaterconservancy.org) or  
237-0400.

- Shovels, Spades, Picks
- Dibble bars, Pruners
- Work gloves (light or heavy duty)
- Measuring wheel, Wagon
- Wire fencing and stakes

donating money to purchase needed  
reference materials.

Our Spring Creek Day planning committee:  
**Jill Smith, Bob Donaldson, Bob Meyers,**  
**Dave Guss, Jean Aron, Jean Gerber,**  
**Roxanne Shiels, and Shana Tritsch.**

**Frank Higdon**, ClearWater's new represen-  
tative on the DEP Northcentral Regional  
Round Table and **Bob Donaldson**,  
ClearWater's official representative to the  
DEP Central Penn Watershed Team.

**Amos Goodall** for legal assistance and  
**PennTerra Engineering, Inc.** for survey-  
ing service donations to the Land Protec-  
tion Program.

# A Note from your President

Here's some news from our Land Protection Program. ClearWater is currently creating a GIS-based **Strategic Conservation Plan** that will allow us to identify the most ecologically important areas and individual properties in Centre County. Once these properties are identified, ClearWater will work hand-in-hand with willing landowners, community representatives, agencies, and funders to protect these critically important properties. Our strategic conservation plan will be the centerpiece of a five-year land protection campaign in which ClearWater's land protection efforts will be proactive, strategic, focused, and efficient as never before.



ClearWater currently holds five conservation easements protecting roughly 600 acres of land. Our goal over the next five years is to acquire an additional 31 easements totaling 4,100 acres and having a conservatively-estimated value of some \$4.1 million. We will be establishing annual goals to check our progress over the course of our five-year campaign.

This is our vision and our goal. In order to implement the plan and make it work we'll be asking individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout the entire county to pledge support for ClearWater's land protection activities over the five-year period of the campaign. ClearWater will need your help if we are to achieve our ambitious and important land protection goals. Grant funding and membership dollars won't be enough.

If you're interested in learning more about our Strategic Conservation Plan and our land protection campaign, or if you're interested in finding out how you can help, please give us a call.

Brian

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## *ClearWater* **Newsbriefs...**

### **RESTORATION CREW PLANTS OVER 1,000 TREES**

It has been a busy growing season for the dedicated volunteers who have been planting native trees and shrubs and removing invasive plants along waterways in the Spring Creek Watershed. As part of their Stream Re-Leaf program, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation provided ClearWater Conservancy with loads of free native plants to revegetate the banks of our streams.

In addition to planting, our hard-working restoration crew repeatedly filled a dumpster full of weeds each week at our volunteer nights at the PA Military Museum in Boalsburg. Volunteers concentrated their efforts on invasive species such as Canada thistle, curly dock, crown vetch, and spotted knapweed, among others.

This fall, the Fasick Park streamside restoration and demonstration will begin. For more information, or to join our restoration crew, call Katie at 237-0400.

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### **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

It's not too late to sponsor September's Spring Creek Day or January's "For the Love of Art & Chocolate" event. Sponsors can earn great benefits in exchange for their financial support. A comprehensive listing of corporate sponsorship opportunities and donation options is now available for ClearWater events and publications. To learn more, see the Sponsorship Opportunities packet link at <http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/member.htm>.

### **\$3,500 ALREADY PLEDGED FOR THE DON HAMER CONSERVATION CHALLENGE**

Our response to Don Hamer's generous funding challenge has already been quick and positive, and we've barely started to promote it yet! Several ClearWater supporters jumped right on the opportunity to match their contributions for conserving habitats and landscapes with the highest priority natural resource value.

The Don Hamer Conservation Challenge is a five-year initiative to raise monies to be used solely to support the land trust activities of ClearWater. To leverage your conservation dollars 2 to 1, please call 237-0400 for more information or simply send in your pledge. Forms can be found at <http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/member.htm#Don%20Hamer%20Fund>.

# THE SPRING CREEK VALLEY BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AREA

Excerpted from the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory, 2002 Update Edition  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Spring Creek Valley contains some of the most intact examples of limestone-dependent natural community types to be found anywhere in Centre County, and these communities host a number of plant and animal species which are extremely uncommon in Pennsylvania, several of which are also globally rare. There are several very distinct habitat types within the valley, due to the range of environmental conditions the valley's dramatic topography creates.

Rock outcroppings frequently occur in the steepest portions of the valley, where the limestone geologic layer that forms the bedrock of the Nittany Valley is exposed to the surface. The plants and animals that are able to utilize these rock outcroppings include many that are specialists, able to survive only in particular conditions and not found in the general landscape. Furthermore, outcroppings at the summit of the slopes with a westerly aspect are hot and dry, while outcropping in a mid- or lower-slope position that are well-shaded and north- or east-facing are cool and moist, and different assemblages of species are found in both settings, although both fall under the classification of calcareous opening/cliff community.

The forest communities that occupy the more moderate slopes of the valley are also ecologically important. The limestone-enriched soil facilitates the development of distinctive communities. As limestone-enriched soils are often highly productive for agriculture, few examples of these communi-

ties today remain in Centre County, and among those that do, the forests of the Spring Creek Valley are the most extensive and are in relatively good condition.

## THREATS AND STRESSES

The use of pesticides in the area would be extremely detrimental to the unique animal species found at this site. The communities occupying the Spring Creek Valley slopes receive runoff from lands above the valleys.

A number of invasive exotic species have established in the valley to date. The management of the Spring Creek Valley landscapes may determine how dominant these species eventually become, given that fragmentation and disturbance of natural landscapes are correlated with increased success of invasive exotic species.

Another detrimental effect of frag-

mentation is that it alters habitat characteristics, causing changes in light levels and temperatures and imposing obstacles to species movement. These changes may negatively impact native species, particularly the more specialized ones, leading to an overall reduction in the biodiversity within the area.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Pesticide spraying should be avoided within the Spring Creek Valley to protect the special animal populations living here. The natural communities of the valley are already somewhat fragmented by features such as roads, trails, and various facilities; in order to preserve the integrity and native biodiversity of the valley's unique communities, care should be taken in future plans regarding this site to minimize disturbance and maximize the contiguity of the natural landscape.



Holly Fritchman

*Spring Creek just above Fisherman's Paradise.*

The Spring Creek Valley Biological Diversity Area (BDA) is categorized as Exceptional in the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory. Only 29 other sites in Centre County have received this designation.

Exceptional sites are defined as those that are of exceptional importance for the biological diversity and ecological integrity of the county or region. Sites in this category contain one or more occurrences of state or national species of special concern or rare natural community types that are of a good size and extent and are in a relatively undisturbed condition. Sites of exceptional significance merit quick, strong, and complete protection.

The Spring Creek Valley BDA is a landscape that contains several species and communities that are rare within the state:

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier humilis*)

Roundleaf serviceberry (*Amelanchier sanguinea*)

Ebony sedge (*Carex eburnea*)

Geyer's sedge (*Carex geyeri*)

Laurentian bladder-fern (*Cystopteris laurentiana*)

Tufted buttercup (*Ranunculus fascicularis*)

Lance-leaved buckthorn (*Rhamnus lanceolata*)

Calcareous opening/cliff community

Special animal #1

Special animal #2

Special animal #3

*Note: Some species which are perceived to be highly vulnerable to intentional disturbance are referred to as "special animals" or "special plants" rather than by their species name. Within each site these species are numbered.*



ClearWater Conservancy

## Come to our 22nd Annual Spring Creek Day

Sunday, September 19, 1 - 5 pm

Fisherman's Paradise

1150 Spring Creek Road, Bellefonte

### Fun for the Whole Family!

Learn fly casting and fly tying techniques from local fishing experts

Enjoy great live music throughout the day by local bands

Take a hike up into the Spring Creek Canyon with local experts in geology, native plants, birds, history, and water resources

Visit the Flyfishing Museum and tour the Fish Hatchery

Browse displays by over 40 natural resource conservation and related organizations and businesses

Watch artists-in-action as they paint and sketch the landscape

Identify stream critters, enjoy nature crafts and games, create your own wetland, make fish prints, build a bird-house

### And much, much more!

For more information, contact Jennifer at 237-0400 or [jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org)

[www.clearwaterconservancy.org](http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org)

*Spring Creek Day was made possible in part through a grant from the cultural, historical, and recreational assets apportionment of the Centre County hotel room tax initiative provided by the Centre County Board of Commissioners and Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau.*



RE/MAX Centre Realty  
1376 Martin Street  
State College, Pennsylvania 16803

# Riparian Program Gets Under Way in

By **Tracey Dooms**  
Volunteer Contributor

ClearWater Conservancy began its \$225,000 Riparian Conservation Program this spring by planting hundreds of plants and shrubs near Spring Creek on a Houserville farm.

As of mid-summer, ClearWater had planted about 450 plants and shrubs on the Rockenbeck property along Spring Creek, and several hundred more will be planted this fall in areas formerly mowed for hay.

“A lot of the streams you see along here are just naked,” Ombalski said. This lack of streamside or riparian trees and plants means stormwater runoff and accompanying sediments, pesticides, etc. flow directly into the stream, instead of being

filtered by a natural buffer area, she explained. In addition, stream areas that are not shaded by vegetation have higher temperatures than are optimum for trout and other animal species. Another benefit of riparian vegetation is that woody debris falling into the stream launches the food chain by becoming food for bugs, which then become food for fish.

This first riparian buffer restoration project is taking place at the historic Baylets farm along Houserville Road. In fall 2003, a

Rockenbeck family partnership bought the last 10 acres of the Baylets property, which borders Spring Creek and the land where two family members grew up, said Margie (Umberger) Rockenbeck, family spokeswoman.

The land became part of the Riparian Conservation Program almost by accident, Rockenbeck said.

Before buying the property, Rockenbeck contacted the University Area Joint Authority to find out whether sewer service might be planned for that area. UAJA gave the disappointing answer of “no,” but then asked if the family might like some free trees planted there.

UAJA had used about half of a \$10,000 Growing Greener grant to plant trees along Spring Creek on Penn State land in Houserville and offered to plant trees on the Rockenbeck property using the rest of the funds, said Dave Smith, UAJA assistant executive director. That led to plans for 29 larger trees, which were planted in the spring.

Meanwhile, Smith suggested that Rockenbeck check in with ClearWater about further enhancement and protection of the land. She and husband Dave



*Volunteer Kathy Derge Gipe enjoys planting.*



*Hundreds of trees stand in their new guards along Spring Creek at the Umberger Family Farm.*

# Houserville

attended ClearWater's annual meeting, reconnected with many old friends, and soon decided to become ClearWater life members, with riparian plantings in the works for their new property. "The plantings seem to be doing fantastically," Rockenbeck said in mid-summer.

The next large project in the Riparian Conservation Program will be a riparian buffer demonstration project at Fasick Park (Harris Township) this fall, in partnership with Centre Region Parks & Recreation.

According to a 2001 assessment by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, approximately 20 percent of the Spring Creek Watershed is "impaired," meaning it is not able to support the plant and animal life that should be living there, Ombalski said. ClearWater Conservancy and Trout Unlimited are using the grant money to reduce that impairment and prevent future losses.

"There isn't very much regulation for the protection of the water quality," Ombalski said. "Nothing says you're not allowed to degrade the buffer." So, over the years, people have removed riparian vegetation for agricultural and residential uses. "People want to see the stream," she said. "They don't realize that if you clear it too much, you get into trouble."



Katie Ombalski

*Margie Rockenbeck, hard at work on a volunteer tree planting day.*

## FAMILY MEMBERS PARTNER FOR CONSERVATION

The Rockenbeck family bought the Baylets property, part of which is zoned R-1 for residential use, to try and preserve its natural and historic values, according to Margie Rockenbeck. "It's one of the most beautiful spots along the creek," she said. "We thought that a developer would buy it... somebody who might not have the same feelings about historic Houserville and the creek."

Partnership members are Margie and Dave Rockenbeck; Margie's sister, Julie Umberger, and Julie's husband, Tom Edwards; and the Rockenbecks' son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Laurie Rockenbeck. The Baylets property is next to the land where Margie and Julie grew up, a homestead the family still owns and uses when in town.

Although the partnership members all live out of town (in Carlisle and in Washington state), Margie said they love historic Houserville, where her parents, Edmund and Theresa (Stefan) Umberger, raised their family. Theresa Umberger was "quite the bird-watcher," so the family worked with ClearWater and UAJA to choose plantings that would support avian life, with space for a path for future bird-watchers.

Eventually, the family might develop some of the property, but if that happens, it will be "with a view to preserving the character of the neighborhood," Margie said. Right now, contractor Dylan Wadlington, who grew up in nearby Spring Creek Estates, is remodeling the 1903 farm house so it can be used as a single-family residence or as a bed & breakfast.

**Check out our new sign on the Umberger Family Farm!**

# ClearWater Newsbriefs...

## SPECIAL SUMMER APPEAL SENT TO ALL CLEARWATER MEMBERS

In the past, ClearWater members were asked only at year-end to consider a special contribution over-and-above their annual membership dues. This year, we have sent everyone a special summer appeal, which should have arrived in mailboxes in early August. Special appeals are an important way for charitable organizations to raise additional much needed capital during the year.

The financial challenges before us are real. Even though our membership donations have been steadily increasing this year, they have not kept pace with the significant cuts in grant and foundation support that are available to ClearWater Conservancy.

Additional funds from our members and supporters are essential for maintaining the quality conservation and restoration projects that we commit to on behalf of the community. Please help us reach our summer appeal goal of \$15,000. Working together, each one of us can make a contribution that counts!

Thank you to several generous ClearWater supporters who have



Lynn Fosbender

*ClearWater Board member, Dan Crust makes a rainbarrel for his farmstead on Buffalo Run.*

already contributed additional gifts to ClearWater Conservancy this year: Don Hamer, Diane Kerly, George Hildenbrandt, and State of the Art.

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## ALL MEMBERS INVITED

ClearWater Conservancy's Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner will be held on November 16, 2004. Postcards with ticket reservation information will be mailed in October, but mark your calendar now.

In addition to the usual meal, election of the Board, year in review, volunteer awards, and guest speaker, we are also planning a silent auction. We are looking for homemade donations, talents, gift certificates, and other fun items with a harvest theme, so be creative!

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## RAINBARREL WORKSHOP A GREAT SUCCESS; ANOTHER PLANNED FOR FALL

Not only did 13 people learn how to make a rain barrel, they also got to take one home at the end of the workshop! As part of ClearWater's Watershed Wise Backyards and Businesses project, participants also learned how to conserve water and reduce polluted stormwater runoff from their household.

ClearWater was happy to partner with Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Centre and Clinton County Master Gardeners on this project. Funding was provided by the PA Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. Please watch the upcoming events section of our website to find details about the next workshop date.

## BRYCE BOYER NOMINATED FOR AMERICAN LAND CONSERVATION AWARD

Bryce Boyer is a seemingly tireless volunteer and a mostly unsung hero. From the biggest land use decisions affecting our growing community to the

smallest jobs at ClearWater or the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, Bryce volunteers to do

whatever it takes to monitor and

protect natural resources, ensure thoughtful and cooperative land use planning, and simply lend a helping hand and a quick smile.



Katie Ombalski

*Bryce Boyer volunteers to collect water samples every month of the year.*

In two pages, which was quite a challenge given Bryce's chock-full volunteer calendar, ClearWater staff tried to capture the essence of Bryce's contributions to the community, his commitment to local conservation, the actions he has taken to protect land and water resources, and how he has worked to preserve a sense of place for the benefit of future generations.

We are confident that Bryce's record of volunteer service in land and water protection and promotion will be an inspiration to conservationists everywhere and that he will be among the top candidates for the American Land Conservation Award, to be given this fall by The Conservation Fund and the Catto Charitable Foundation at the Land Trust Rally.

## CONNECTIONS FIELD TRIP APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 10

Thanks to a grant from Altrusa International of Centre County, ClearWater will once again be able to send students from Centre County schools to Millbrook Marsh Nature Center for outdoor environmental education in 2004-2005. In spring 2004, 856 students, their teachers, and parent chaperones learned about watersheds and wetlands.

Anne Houck from Mountaintop Elementary School in Snow Shoe participated with her students for the first time this year. About the program, she said, "Learning in an outdoor environment is great, and the students engaged with the teachers enthusiastically. The nature walk through the marsh was filled with interesting facts and the students especially enjoyed examining the living things that came from the stream."

Applications for fall 2004 can be downloaded at <http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/connections.htm>.

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## T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

A limited supply of ClearWater T-shirts are now available, featuring Jim McClure's famous "We're All in the Same Bathtub" cartoon. Order yours for \$10 today while the selection is still good. Small, medium, large, and extra large shirts come in a variety of colors. Call 237-0400 if you are interested.



## FREE SEEDLINGS AVAILABLE

ClearWater is offering free seedlings to streamside landowners. Available species include Green Ash, Pin Oak, Gray Dogwood, Red Chokeberry, and Black Chokeberry. Call Katie at 237-0400 to find out if your property qualifies for this program.

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## HELPFUL INFORMATION SENT TO RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS

Streamside property owners in the Upper Spring Creek and Upper Slab Cabin Run watersheds

and the Houserville area have been receiving information from ClearWater Conservancy about

conserving streamside properties to improve wildlife habitat and water quality.



*Purple Loosestrife.*

Included in the educational packet were brochures and fact sheets, including a fact sheet on purple loosestrife—the pretty but invasive purple flower that has begun popping up in the Spring Creek Watershed. Purple loosestrife takes over wetlands and streams, choking waterways and degrading habitat for fish, birds, and other animals.

Those interested in learning more about stream conservation are invited to a Stream Stewardship Workshop, co-hosted by ClearWater Conservancy and the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, August 25, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Harris Township Municipal Building. Call Lynn at 237-0400 to register.

## SPRING CREEK WATERSHED PLAN TRANSITION

The Spring Creek Watershed Plan has been successfully completed by ClearWater Conservancy and responsibility for its implementation has been transferred back to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission. Over the next several months, Matt Genchur will continue to provide 1/4-time staff support to the effort under the direction of the Watershed Commission with funding dedicated by the Centre County Commissioners.

We regret that we had to say goodbye to Matt as a ClearWater staff member, but we look forward to working with him in his newest capacity with the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association. Best wishes, Matt.

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## NEW MEMBERSHIP GOAL... 2005 MEMBERS BY THE END OF 2005

What an awesome challenge! But to become a sustainable organization that is not dependent on the ups and downs of grant cycles and the changing priorities of major foundations, that is the number of dues-paying members ClearWater needs.

Please help us to more than triple our membership by inviting a friend or colleague to join us in our conservation mission. Pass along this newsletter and take the opportunity to share our successes with others. Invite someone you know to come to Spring Creek Day and meet our many partners while enjoying a fun-for-the-whole-family outdoor event.

You, our already committed members, are our best representatives to the rest of the community. You have more influence than you know. Go ahead, give it a try. Find a new member today!

# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT...

## Galbraith Gap Gateway Project

By **Dennis Hameister**  
Volunteer Contributor

Begun as an effort to preserve valuable property at the foot of Tussey Mountain, the Galbraith Gap Gateway project has been a long time in the making. A little history... When the Harris Township Authority sold its holdings to the State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) in 1992, a little known parcel of land at the foot of Tussey Mountain sat vacant, but heavily used by recreation enthusiasts. It was the intent of the SCBWA not to use the old Galbraith Gap reservoir in its water distribution to Harris Township residents. In early 1994, a group of residents led by Dennis Hameister and Greg Roth walked the Gap property, and thus began the long effort to preserve 21 acres for public use.

In 1994, Harris Township Supervisors were willing to appoint a

Galbraith Gap Property Study Committee to pursue public acquisition of the Gap property. In June 1995, the ClearWater Conservancy presented findings of a site assessment, and in July 1995, a formal property appraisal was conducted. This appraisal and support documents from the Spring Creek Corridor Study prepared by the The Penn State University's Department of Landscape Architecture clearly indicated value in preserving Galbraith Gap as an entry-way to the 94,000 acres of Rothrock State Forest that are easily accessible to Centre Region residents.

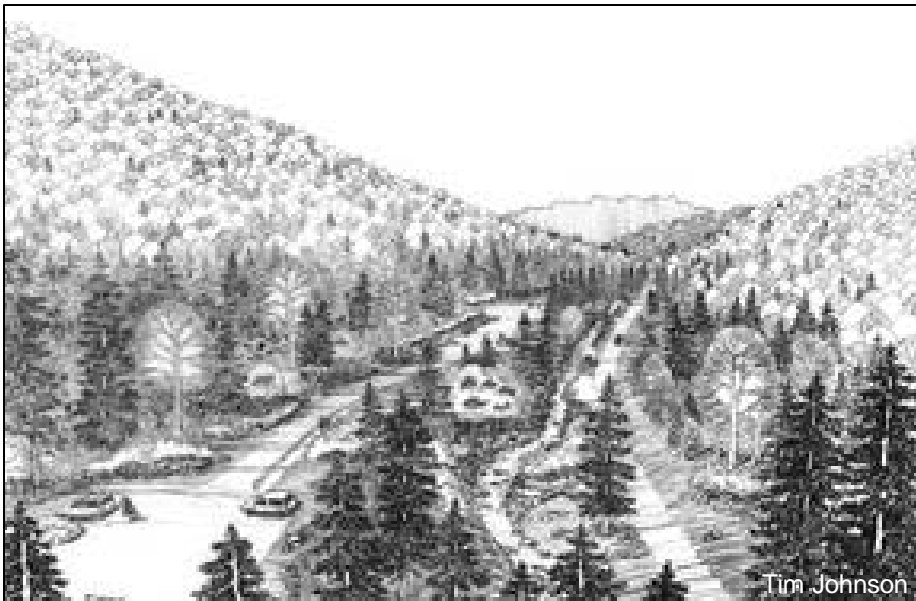
In December 1995, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission presented a report indicating an excellent wild trout population was found in



*Spring Creek Watershed Commission representatives and friends learn about this model project.*

Galbraith Gap Run. Professional expertise of Tom Yahner, a member of the Study Committee, led to a vision statement for the development of Galbraith Gap and Shingletown Gap as public gateways to the Rothrock State Forest and a goal and objective statement intended to establish a design intent for the Galbraith Gap project.

On September 19, 1996, the transfer of 21 acres for \$1.00 occurred between the SCBWA and the State Bureau of Forestry. The Harris Township-based headwaters of Spring Creek are now in public ownership of the Commonwealth. Site design and development for improvements to Galbraith Gap continued for several years, with detailed attention given to maintaining the high quality of the Galbraith Gap Run. The Study Committee continued to work with Facility Design professionals from the Bureau of



*Tim Johnson*



## A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

*Hello friends...*

At ClearWater Conservancy, we dedicate our time and our talents to working on behalf of the land and water resources that need the community's protection. But to do all that we do, we also require the financial support of our community. That's why you are members, and that is why we appreciate your support so much.

You recently received a special summer appeal for funding. Please help us with an extra gift if you are able. The financial challenges before us are real. Even though our membership donations have been steadily increasing this year, they have not kept pace with the significant cuts in grant and foundation support that are available to ClearWater Conservancy.

Additional funds from our members and supporters are essential for maintaining the quality conservation and restoration projects that we commit to on behalf of the community. Please help us reach our summer appeal goal of \$15,000. Working together, each one of us can make a contribution that counts!

Thank you for your continued generous support. And please join us for our upcoming Spring Creek Day on Sunday, September 19 at Fisherman's Paradise in Bellefonte.

## Volunteers Needed

Two or three people to staff a ClearWater display at PVCA's Crickfest on September 5.

Parking attendants and several booth staffers for Spring Creek Day.

Someone to scan photos and organize our digital photo library.

A few people to plan the Annual Meeting and Dinner... choose the location and meal, prepare a silent auction, book a speaker, etc.

People interested in helping with "For the Love of Art & Chocolate"... soliciting chocolate donations, preparing the art catalogue, setting up the preview show or the main event, etc.

**Contact Brooks at 237-0400 or [brooks@clearwaterconservancy.org](mailto:brooks@clearwaterconservancy.org) to find out more or to sign up!**

Forestry and in 2001 approved the final design for improved parking and user entry to Rothrock State Forest for hiking, biking, and related outdoor uses. The final planting design with all native Pennsylvania plants took place in late 2003 and spring 2004.

The Study Committee would like to thank the many organizations and individuals that made the Galbraith Gap project a success. Included are the State College Borough Water Authority for donating the Gap property to the Bureau of Forestry, the ClearWater Conservancy, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Thanks also to committee members Dennis Hameister, Greg Roth, Bob Crum, Tom Yahner, Ron Woodhead,

Sam Bricker, Gary Rutherford, Bob Gruver, Tom Smith, Max Gill, and Tom Holleran.

The community is invited to enjoy this public resource and reflect on the partnerships that made it possible.



Katie Ombalski

*Galbraith Gap Run in Rothrock State Forest.*

### OUR MISSION

The mission of the ClearWater Conservancy is to promote conservation and restoration of natural resources in central Pennsylvania through land protection, watershed stewardship, and environmental outreach to the community.

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*Fall 2004*

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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

## *ClearWater Conservancy*

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