



Conservation Easements kick off 2005

By **Jennifer Shuey**
Executive Director

In January 2005, ClearWater Conservancy put the final touches on not one, but two riparian conservation easements, signalling what looks to be a very productive year for the Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee.

The first conservation easement protects the property of Elsa Lisle along the main stem of Spring Creek just downstream of Lemont.

ClearWater first contacted Ms. Lisle back in 1994 as part of an effort to reach out to land owners near Millbrook Marsh to discuss conservation options. In 2003, through her lawyer, Amos Goodall, Ms. Lisle expressed an interest in permanently protecting her land and invited the members of ClearWater's Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee to visit the property and determine its conservation value.

The committee recommended pursuing the project and upon receiving funding for a Riparian Conservation

Program in 2004, ClearWater decided that the Lisle property should be ClearWater's first riparian easement.

The purpose of the easement is to assure that the property will be retained forever in its scenic condition and as a vegetated buffer of Spring Creek for natural resource conservation. The property will continue in its existing residential use but will not be converted to commercial or industrial uses.

According to Jerry Wettstone, the lead committee volunteer on this project, Ms. Lisle has had a lifelong interest in Spring Creek and the wild flora and fauna on her land.

This conservation easement ensures that the

land that she loves will be protected and cherished in perpetuity.

ClearWater was happy to help Ms. Lisle reach her vision and would happily discuss conservation options with other interested landowners.

ClearWater's second conservation easement of 2005 was the culmination of an effort to partner with the Hilton Garden Inn to highlight an environ-

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View overlooking the wetland sedges of Millbrook Marsh on Hilton Garden Inn property, now protected by ClearWater Conservancy with a conservation easement.

Mark Your Calendar for these Great Events!

Monthly Meetings

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

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

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

ClearWater Development Committee
1st Monday, 4:30 – 6 pm

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

Special Opportunities

March 1, 7 pm
Adventures in Conservation presentation on vernal ponds by Jim Julian of the PSU Cooperative Wetlands Center. A follow-up field study will be held on April 2. Watch for coming details on locations and time.

February 26, 8:15 am – 12:30 pm
Public Issues Forum: Transportation in Centre County, State College High

School South Building. RSVP to SCASD Community Ed. at 231-1062.

March 1, 9 am – 4 pm
Watershed Stewardship Guide workshop, Williamsport. Free. Information available at azimmers@paconserve.org. RSVP by February 22.

March 16, 9 am – 3:30 pm
Low Impact Design Workshop, Patton Township Building, 100 Patton Plaza. Sponsored by CC Conservation District and CC Planning Office. Topics covered: infiltration techniques, storm water issues, karst geology concerns, low impact approaches and techniques. RSVP by March 10 at 355-6817 or amdonova@co.centre.pa.us.

April 2
Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Annual Spring Banquet, Ramada Inn. Happy hours from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Deluxe buffet dinner served at 7:30. Tickets available for \$28/adults or \$10/children under 10 from Joe Boston at joeboston1959@adelphia.net or 861-5566. RSVP by March 28.

April 8 – 9
Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, Strasburg, PA. Information

available from the PA Land Trust Association at <http://conserveland.org>. Register by February 28 for discount.

April 16
Centre Region Parks & Recreation's Spring Park Spruce Up. Call 231-3071.

April 23
Watershed Cleanup Day, multiple sites throughout Centre County's watersheds. Volunteers and sites are needed. Get involved at 237-0400 or brooks@clearwaterconservancy.org.

April 30
Alice Beatty Memorial Arbor Day Tree Planting, tentatively set for Fasick Park, Harris Township.

Mount Nittany Conservancy's Climb up Clean up. For more info, email Ed Stoddard at trailhikerpa@adelphia.net.

May 8, 1 pm
Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, "The Rock".

May 15
International Migratory Bird Day celebration activities at Scotia Barrens to highlight its importance to bird conservation. Watch for more details.

THANK YOU

Ira & Patricia Whiteman for their generous \$5,000 year-end contribution.

The **Centre County Community Foundation** for granting an unsolicited \$2,500 to ClearWater at the end of 2004!

The **ClearWater members** who responded generously to our special holiday appeal. This year's total was \$6,975 – up from \$3,360 last year!

Mimi Fredman and **Town&Gown** for featuring ClearWater Conservancy in December's "Lunch with Mimi".

Pam Spayd for coordinating our reinvigorated Adventures in Conservation program series and to **Jim Finley** for

THANK YOU

providing a fabulous first presentation on Forest Forensics! A big thanks also to the **Centre County Historical Society** for the meeting space and helping to advertise the event to their members.

Duff Gold and **Hu Barnes** for organizing December's conference on Principles of Acid Rock Pollution Control along Highways. Special thanks to the **anonymous ClearWater member** who contributed \$6,000 to make this conference possible. Kudos to **Mike Joseph** and the **Centre Daily Times** for their excellent coverage of the I-99 ARD story.

Gene Proch for facilitating the Board of Directors' strategic planning retreat. Also to **State College Borough Water Authority**

THANK YOU

for their conference room and **Honeybaked Ham Company** for the great lunch.

Carolyn Mahan & Kurt Engstrom for hosting the New Board Member Orientation and cooking a wonderful meal!

Kelleann Foster and **Darlene Weener** for once again successfully co-chairing "For the Love of Art & Chocolate". Special thanks to **Holly Fritchman** for displaying the nature-inspired art downtown for First Night and for organizing the art preview show at the Art Alliance. We couldn't have done so well without the generosity of our **artist friends** and our **chocolate donors**. Visit our website to view the 2005 event catalogue and the full listing of sponsors and donors.

A Note from your New President

This promises to be an exciting year as we celebrate ClearWater's twenty-fifth anniversary. We are doing much more than celebrating, however, as a review of the past few weeks will show.

Two new conservation easements have been concluded, both in College Township. As you will read in our feature story, the Elsa Lisle property on Spring Creek adjacent to College Avenue and the Hilton Garden Inn property partially encompassing the Millbrook Marsh fen are now protected by easements held by ClearWater. We appreciate the interest and commitment of both property owners to help protect these important resources.

In December, ClearWater, the Penn State College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, and the Department of Geosciences co-sponsored an important academic conference at Penn State. This conference delved into the effects of pyrite concentrations exposed by engineering projects and focused on the local project at Skytop, bringing knowledge and information from around the world to bear on possible solutions. It is our hope that this will provide tools and information to aid not only a viable and effective solution to the Skytop project, but also for future projects in Pennsylvania and beyond. Our deep gratitude is owed to Dr. Duff Gold and Dr. Hu Barnes for their efforts in organizing and carrying out this conference, and to an anonymous benefactor who gave a substantial sum of money to ClearWater to facilitate this event.

Our twenty-fifth anniversary is an opportunity to look back, to acknowledge achievements and appreciate the contributions many people. It is even more important to look ahead to the work that remains. To that end, the Board is preparing to meet for strategic planning, to ensure that your Conservancy continues to play a vital role in protecting and improving our natural resources for years to come. As your new Board President, I look forward to this exciting time in our history and to working with all of you to conserve and restore our natural resources for our future.



For the Love of Art & Chocolate

Sandwiched neatly between expiring New Year's resolutions and Valentine's Day, this year's major benefit event once again delivered an amazing array of chocolate delicacies to entice sweet-toothed conservationists.

Many danced away their calories to the swingin' sounds of Jazza-Ma-Phone before bidding on their favorites from an impressive selection of nature-themed art from local artists. Admirers marvelled at the variety of ways these talented artisans capture the essence of our shared landscape.

The fun was abundant, but so was the generosity of our supporters. For the Love of **Art & Chocolate** raised over **\$11,000** this year to support our conservation and restoration activities over the coming months. Many thanks to all who came out and made the evening such a success!

Adventures in Conservation

By **Jennifer Shuey**
Executive Director

Have you been searching for ways to interact with other ClearWater members and friends?

Would you like to hear an interesting conservation-themed presentation?

How about a fun hike or field trip?

ClearWater Conservancy will be providing all this and more through its newly-reinvigorated Adventures in Conservation Program Series!

To start this program on the right foot in 2005, ClearWater delivered a smashing success. Dr. Jim Finley, an extension specialist in forest resources with Penn State, presented a talk on Forest Forensics to a packed house of over 60 people at the Centre Furnace Mansion on January 26.

For those who know where to look, there are hidden clues that reveal stories of the past. Dr. Finley taught the group how to use features in the forest to unveil forgotten stories hidden in the landscape.

Those stories have a couple of

parts. First, there is the site and the forest that grows there. "By reading the landscape and the plants, you can begin to predict some of the things you expect to see. Then, if you can identify some of the

Arbor Day on Saturday, April 30 by helping to restore a riparian buffer along an impaired segment of Spring Creek. In addition to hearing presentations about the importance of trees and the tradition of Arbor

Day, participants will be able to dig right in and do their part for the environment. Trees and shrubs will be planted in Fasick Park in Harris Township.

ClearWater's traditional Mother's Day Wildflower Walk on May 8 will once again share a wealth of information about an increasingly rare native wildflower community

living on "The Rock" at the head of the Spring Creek Canyon on Rock Road downstream from Houseville. Wildflower experts from the PA Native Plant Society will lead this event.

The following weekend, on May 15, ClearWater will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with activities and talks at Scotia Barrens, highlighting the importance of this ecosystem to the variety of birds that pass through here.

So enjoy spring, get outside, and have some fun. Bring a friend, and introduce them to ClearWater. We hope to see you soon!

If you have an idea, we'd love to hear it! Send program suggestions to our volunteer program coordinator, Pam Spayd at pamspayd@yahoo.com.
Volunteers are always welcome. An event coordination checklist has been developed to make planning an Adventures in Conservation program easy. Join the fun; get involved today!

human-caused changes, you can think about what has happened over time as we've used the land in different ways", according to Finley.

Several additional adventures are coming up over the next few months. The first is a program and a field trip on vernal ponds by Jim Julian of the PSU Cooperative Wetlands Center. First will be an indoor presentation, scheduled for March 1 at 7 pm. A few weeks later, on April 2, Jim will take participants out in the field to assess vernal ponds in the landscape.

Late April and early May are chock-full of fun opportunities. Celebrate



Checking out columbine on the Wildflower Walk... Planting trees at Blue Spring Park... Paddling down Spring Creek with friends

Acknowledgements

ClearWater Conservancy wishes to acknowledge with heartfelt appreciation the following contributors who so generously supported our conservation efforts in 2004.

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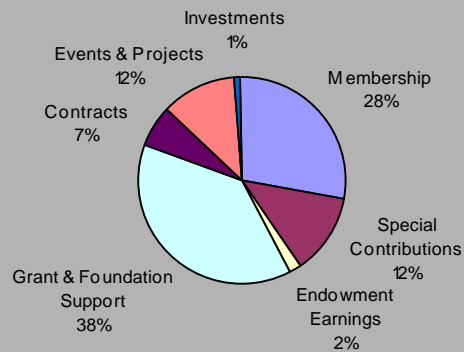
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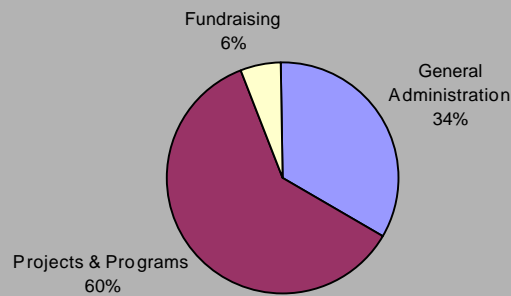
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Centre County Solid Waste
Authority
Centre Region Parks & Recreation
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chocolate Madness
Kathleen Chovit
College Township
Cool Beans Coffee & Tea
The Corner Room
John Corr
Bruce Cramer Studio
Dan Crust
Culligan Water
Delectable Delights by Heather
Holland Luse

The Deli Restaurant (Dante's
Restaurants, Inc.)
Bob Donaldson
Duffy's Tavern
Walt Ebaugh
The Committee to Elect Jon Eich
Equinox Cafe
Exygen Research
Ferguson Township
Jim Finley
Leslie Finton
Barbara Fisher
Rob Fisher
Bruce Fleischer
Lynn Fosbender
The Frame Factory and Gallery
Holly Fritchman
Gamble Mill
Gardner's Candies
Susan Nicholas Gephart
Gertrude Hawk Chocolates
Giant
Jean Giddings
Todd Giddings
Max & Lenna Gill
The Gingerbread Man
Amos Goodall, Goodall & Yurchak
Cristol Gregory
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.
Halfmoon Township
Don Hamer
Jeanne Norton Hammett
Susie Hayes
Herwig's
Frank Higdon
Hilton Garden Inn
Thomas Hirata
Hoag's Catering
The Honeybaked Ham Company
Ken Hull
Hummingbird Room
Ishkabibble Sweet Treats
Jennifer Kane
Ruth Kempner
Dave Kolasa
Stan Hunter Kranc
LandServ, Inc.
Pat Little
Stacy Levy
Sana Malik
Mark Maughmer
Trafford McRae
Mark Messenger
Moshannon Wildfire Association
Pat Morse
Mt. Nittany Winery
Moyer's Jewelers
Marylu Murken
Danielle Nastal
Julie Nelson
Ray Noll III
Howard Nuernberger
Office Depot
Olive Garden

Leeshaun Ott
Otto's Pub and Brewery
Papa John's
Brooks Parker
Patton Township
Penn State Cooperative Wetlands
Center
Penn State Creamery
Penn State Downtown Theatre
Penn State Department of
Information, Science, & Technology
Elizabeth Pennock
Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Department of
Transportation
PennTerra Engineering
Jennifer Philippoff
Grace Pilato
Natalia Pilato
PixelClear, Inc.
Principessa Fine Foods
Gene and Natalie Proch
Ramada Inn and Conference
Center
Rapid Transit Sports
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SPE Federal Credit Union
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*Please forgive us for any omissions or errors.
Contact Brooks at
brooks@clearwaterconservancy.org or call 237-
0400 to update our database if you find a mistake.*

ClearWater Newsbriefs...

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

ClearWater Conservancy is one of three finalists for the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County's 2004 Community Service Award! We will be recognized for this prestigious honor at an Awards Dinner on February 17.

HAMER CONSERVATION CHALLENGE MEETS FIRST YEAR GOAL

In December, six-months ahead of schedule, gifts to the Don Hamer Conservation Challenge exceeded the \$5,000 annual goal!

The Don Hamer Conservation Challenge is a five-year, \$25,000 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>.

NEW 25TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP GOAL

Since announcing our membership challenge at ClearWater's Annual Meeting in mid-November, 35 new members have joined our ranks! That is great news, but we still need to do better.

Please help us reach our goal of 25 new members each month of 2005 and 2006. Invite someone you know to come to one of our upcoming events.

Our members are our best representa-

tives to the rest of the community. You have more influence than you know. Go ahead, give it a try. Find a new member today!

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Visit Millbrook Marsh and find your inspiration. ClearWater Conservancy will be accepting submissions of high-quality digital photographs of art based on our most treasured conserved property. A panel of local artists will choose the 13 best images for inclusion in ClearWater's 2006 Calendar.

June 1 is the submission deadline. For more information, please contact jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org or call 237-0400.

In addition to the calendars, the images will also be used in a set of notecards. Both the notecards and the calendars will be sold as a fundraiser and will be available for Spring Creek Day in September.

NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED

ClearWater Conservancy is pleased to announce that Otto's Pub and Brewery has chosen us as their charitable partner in their second annual golf tournament this year!

The event planning committee is shooting for late August or early September. We will be seeking sponsorships, prize donations, and of course, golfers.

Planning will get started soon, so if you would like to get involved, please let us know.

SPRING CLEANING

Last fall's hurricanes wreaked havoc on the watershed. Remember those flooded basements and overflowing streams? The storms washed trash and debris all along our creeks and streams.

This year's Watershed Cleanup Day, scheduled for Saturday, April 23 from 8 am - noon, will focus some much needed attention on our stream banks. We have scheduled our event to coincide with the Great PA Cleanup when watershed associations, conservancies, Adopt-A-Highway groups, and others all across the Commonwealth will be out cleaning our roadways, waterways, and greenways.

To report an area in need of cleanup or to volunteer yourself or your group for a cleanup site, let us know.

The first planning meeting will be held on February 23 at 4:30 pm at the ClearWater office under the volunteer leadership of Jeff Sturniolo. Meetings will follow every two weeks after that. Please join us, and encourage everyone to **"Pick it up PA... every day!"**



The 2004 Millbrook Marsh cleanup crew on the Boardwalk with their "haul".

Conservation Easements

(continued from page 1)

mentally-sensitive redevelopment of a commercial gateway into State College while protecting and enhancing the adjacent wetland resources of Millbrook Marsh.

Representatives of ClearWater and the Green Hotel Associates first started discussing the donation of a conservation easement in April 2001, before the hotel was even built.

The property was worthy of conservation for its riparian and wetland habitat. Approximately 450 feet of Thompson Run, a first order stream, runs through the property. Thompson Run is designated by the PA Department of Environmental Protection as a High Quality Cold Water Fishery, which should be maintained and protected at this quality.

The property is located within the Millbrook Marsh Biological Diversity Area, defined by the *Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory* as “represent(ing) one of the rarest types of communities in the county. It is the only sizeable example of an open sedge fen in the county”.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has categorized Millbrook Marsh as being of “exceptional significance”, meaning it is “of exceptional importance for the biological diversity and ecological integrity of the county... Sites of exceptional significance merit quick, strong, and complete protection”.

Hilton Garden Inn’s portion of wetland is adjacent to the 5.5-acre Millbrook Marsh Fen, which is owned and protected by ClearWater

Conservancy, and in close proximity to an additional 50 acres of Millbrook Marsh that are protected by conservation easement. Preservation of the wetlands on Hilton Garden Inn

For instance, the hotel’s landscape architect consulted with ClearWater to choose plants that would be compatible with the marsh ecosystem.



Hilton Garden Inn as seen from the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center boardwalk and bird blind. The ClearWater-owned Millbrook Marsh fen is in the foreground and Thompson Woods Preserve is in the background.

property will result in an expanded area of protected open space and buffer some of the most significant and sensitive portions of Millbrook Marsh.

Mark Morath, President of Hospitality Asset Management Company, worked closely with ClearWater on behalf of the Green Hotel Associates not only to donate the conservation easement, but also to ensure that the hotel was sensitive to the environment during the construction and landscaping phases of development.

“We’ve done a lot of landscaping, much more than most projects of this type,” said Morath. “We want to be a good neighbor to Millbrook Marsh”.

Plus, being ecologically sensitive is just good business. By building a “green hotel”, restoring part of the Millbrook Marsh fen, and donating a conservation easement to ClearWater, the Hilton Garden Inn showcases a great community partnership that protects and enhances the quality of life, the environment, and the economy of the Spring Creek Watershed.

A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Hello Friends...

Do I have a great job, or what! Last night I had the pleasure of meeting two of the all-time legends of fly fishing. At a jam-packed membership meeting of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, ClearWater and TU jointly presented the first annual Spring Creek Heritage Award to George Harvey. Helping us make the presentation was George's good friend – and a legend in his own right – Joe Humphreys.

In illustrating George's lifetime of fishing education, Joe estimated that George taught 56,000 students here at Penn State and all around the country. Now 93, George was still travelling the fly fishing circuit with Joe up until age 90, delighting fishermen with his skill and his advice. In fact, after the presentation many in the crowd gathered close to shake a hand, ask for an autograph, or request a photo with this well-known, well-loved advocate of Spring Creek. On receiving the award George wished all of us the good fortune of being able to get out on the stream and catch fish as well as he can when we get to be his age!



George Harvey (center) flanked by Joe Humphreys and Jennifer Shuey.

Each year at Spring Creek Day, ClearWater and TU will choose and honor another of our local heros, someone who has given their best to protect, promote, or enhance Spring Creek and its watershed. I can think of many deserving candidates, but also hope that many more join the ranks. Think about it... how will you leave your legacy?

Thank you George, for being an inspiration!

Volunteers Needed

Someone to scan photos and organize our digital photo library.

Volunteers to plan activities for our 25th Anniversary. Creativity a must!

Someone to update our website information once or twice a month using FrontPage.

Groups or individuals to clean up a segment of stream or a sinkhole for Watershed Cleanup Day.

New recruits for the 2005 Restora-

tion Crew! Help plant trees, remove invasive species, and more.

We're Also Wishing For...

Vacuum Cleaner, Bird Seed
3' x 5' American Flag
Frames and Mats - variety of sizes
Bubble Wrap
New or Used Garden Tools

**Contact Brooks at 237-0400 or
brooks@clearwaterconservancy.org
to find out more or to sign up!**

REMEMBER...

ClearWater News will be going digital by 2006. If you have not yet provided your email address, please contact Brooks at 237-0400 or brooks@clearwaterconservancy.org.

If you prefer receiving *ClearWater News* by mail, please cut and mail this form to us at 2555 N. Atherton St., State College, PA 16803.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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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**deceased*

Spring 2005

ClearWater Conservancy is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)3 of the I.R.S. Code. Donations are tax-deductible. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Thank you for your support!



Stan Crilly

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

ClearWater Conservancy

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