



PRESERVING THE UNIQUE RESOURCES OF THE SCOTIA BARRENS

By **Tracey Dooms**
Volunteer Contributor

The Scotia Barrens area is a pocket of outdoor resources in the ever-developing Centre Region, providing recreational opportunities, a sense of history, ground-water recharge and natural diversity. For the past several months, the Scotia Barrens Committee has been working to make sure the area — also known as State Game Lands 176 — remains open, preserving all of those features.

“We think that the Barrens, or the Game Lands, is a huge natural resource for all the people of the Centre Region,” said Bob Eberhart, committee chair. “Our overall goal is to try to preserve and enhance the natural and historic features of the Barrens.”

A subcommittee of the Spring Creek Watershed Community, the Scotia Barrens Committee is made up of representatives from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which owns the bulk of the Barrens, and the three townships in which the Barrens lies — Ferguson, Halfmoon and Patton. Township supervisors, planning commission members and game commission members were invited to a May 18 meeting to explore ways the Commission and townships could work

together to preserve the Barrens, Eberhart said.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Scotia Barrens lie west of State College off Scotia Road and basically encompass the 6,211 acres of State Game Lands 176. The Game Commission bought the Scotia lands several decades ago from Boalsburg’s Boal family. With management paid for by hunting licenses, the primary purpose of the Game Lands is to provide hunters with a place to practice their sport. The Commission also operates the Scotia shooting range. About 1,400 acres in the center of the Game Lands are cut and mowed for a research project to determine the effects of

forest management techniques on ruffed grouse.

As a large natural area close to developed neighborhoods, State Game Lands 176 also provides recreational opportunities for many Centre Region residents and visitors. On any pleasant spring day, the wooded and open trails of the Barrens are dotted with hikers, mountain-bikers and dog-walkers, among others.

WINDOW ON THE PAST

The Scotia Barrens offers a unique link to the region’s iron-mining days from the late 1700s to the early 1900s. As early as 1790, area settlers realized

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Don Hamer Issues Funding Challenge

In 1995, the ClearWater Conservancy Board of Directors established a named fund in honor of the outstanding service, support, and leadership that Don Hamer provided to the organization as President from 1992 - 1995. This fund is used solely to support the land trust activities of the ClearWater Conservancy.

In 2004, Don generously pledged \$25,000 over the next five years to build this Land Conservation Fund. In addition, he offered ClearWater a challenge: “Raise \$5,000 a year over the next five years from the community, and I will match that, too.”

In this way, the Don Hamer Conservation Challenge campaign has the potential to raise \$75,000 for conservation of landscapes with the

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Calendar

Monthly Meetings

ClearWater Board of Directors
1st Thursday, 7:30 – 9 am

Spring Creek Watershed Community
Coordinating Committee
3rd Tuesday, 3 – 5 pm, Patton Twp.

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

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

Special Opportunities

May 22

Bald Eagle Sojourn, paddle from
Milesburg to Upper Greens Run, \$10
for adults, \$6 for children under 12, pre-
registration required. Call 355-6817.

May 25

River Lobby Day, organized by Ameri-
can Rivers. Visit
www.RiverLobbyDay.org for more info.

May 29, 7:30am – 3pm

Trash to Treasure Sale, Beaver Sta-
dium. For more info, call 238-8283.

Spring – Summer 2004

Watershed Wise Landscaping: A
Home Gardeners Workshop Series,
Details forthcoming... check the
calendar of the ClearWater website
(www.clearwaterconservancy.org).

June is Rivers Month

Sojourns and educational events are

scheduled through the month to raise
awareness of the values of PA's 83,000
miles of rivers and streams. Visit
www.dcnr.state.pa.us (click on "Rivers")
to find out more.

June – August, Mondays, 10:30 and 12:30am

Marsh Mondays, 1 hour sessions,
variety of topics, for children ages 3 - 9,
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Call
231-3071.

June & July, Thursdays, 7 – 8pm

Guided Discovery Walks. Call 231-
3071.

June 10 - Discover Thompson Woods
Preserve

June 17 - Discover Walnut Springs Park
June 24 - Discover Millbrook Marsh
Nature Center

July 1 - Discover Stan Yoder Memorial
Preserve

July 15 - Discover Tudek Park Butterfly
Garden

July 17, 10am and 2pm

Rain Barrel Construction Workshops,
Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Call
887-5613 to register.

August 9-13, 7:30am – 5:30 pm

Wonderful Wetlands Daycamp 2004,
for kids entering grades 1 - 6, Millbrook
Marsh Nature Center. Call 231-3071.

September 19

Spring Creek Day, Fisherman's Para-
dise... featuring the Spring Creek
Canyon.

October 16

Centre County Conservation Summit,
Bellefonte Middle School.

Our thanks to...

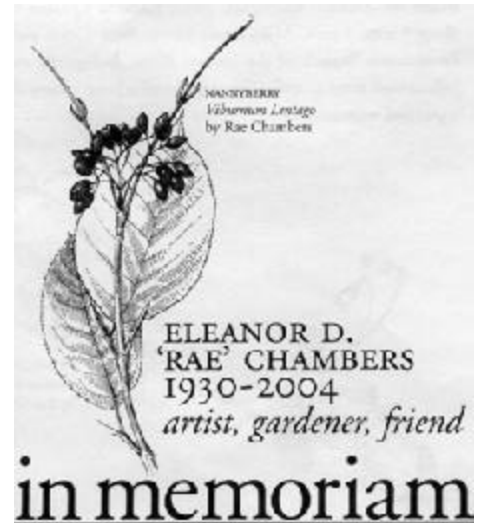
Thomas & Jane Derr for their generous
contribution to the ClearWater Conser-
vancy fund at the Centre County
Community Foundation.

Spring outreach intern **Carolyn Beans**.

The **Centre County Commissioners** for
generously supporting the implementa-
tion of the Spring Creek Watershed Plan.

**Don Watson, Chris Shuey, Mary Anne &
Redding Crafts, Jean Newton, Holly
Fritchman, Angela Phelps, Pat Morse,
Maegen Simmonds, Carolyn Mahan, and
Genie Robine** for staffing the ClearWater
display at many springtime community
events.

Our newest Life Members, **Denny & Karen
Zwigart and Genie Robine**.



WISH LIST

Our new Riparian Conservation
Program is underway. If you would
like to donate any of the following
items, please contact Katie at
katie@clearwaterconservancy.org or
237-0400.

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

We are also in need of several refer-
ence materials. If you would like to
make a donation to help us purchase
the following items, please contact our
new Office Manager, Brooks Parker,
at 237-0400 or
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*, 4th edition (National Geographic) \$22
- Several field guides and PA Game Commission publications \$150

A Note from your President

This issue of the *ClearWater News* highlights the public lands known as Scotia... the area many of us call "The Barrens". Standing directly in the path of intense development pressures, Scotia is a fascinating place of immense ecological, hydrological, historical, and recreational significance to our region. Scotia also abuts the regional growth boundary in Patton and Ferguson Townships, at a time that the growth boundary is coming under ever-increasing pressure from a variety of powerful interests and economic forces. I know that many in our central Pennsylvania communities experience a real sense of loss as we see more and more of our special undeveloped areas sprouting houses, apartment buildings, highways and parking lots.



ClearWater's past and current presidents plan the future at the 2004 Board retreat.

ClearWater's Board of Directors is preparing a strategic plan that will lay out a course of action for protecting properties with important conservation value throughout Centre County. Our talented staff and our dedicated volunteers work hard each and every day in partnership with our local governments, businesses, and a variety of interested groups and individuals to ensure that critical natural areas are valued and protected.

Your membership makes this possible. I offer you my thanks and the challenge to persuade one or two of your neighbors and associates to join with us. Together, we can conserve natural beauty and the environment in the heart of Pennsylvania.

Brian

ClearWater **Newsbriefs...**

JOIN THE RESTORATION CREW

If you love Spring Creek, being outside, and getting your hands dirty, then consider joining our Riparian Conservation Program's Restoration Crew. We will be working hard this summer to help private and public landowners restore riparian buffers and create wildlife habitat on their property. Join forces with other ClearWater members to help plant trees and shrubs and remove invasive species along the Spring Creek corridor. For more information, contact Katie at 237-0400 or katie@clearwaterconservancy.org.

CLEARWATER HELPS STUDENTS MAKE CONNECTIONS

ClearWater Conservancy sent over 850 students from throughout Centre County to Millbrook Marsh Nature Center this spring for outdoor environ-

mental education. Approximately \$4,000 was awarded to elementary and middle schools in the Bellefonte, Bald Eagle, Philipsburg-Osceola, and State College Area School Districts and to Our Lady of Victory elementary school.

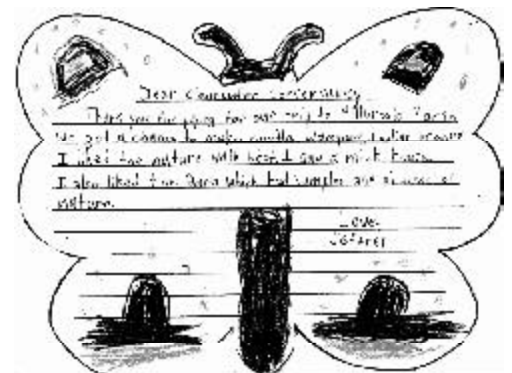
Funding for ClearWater's *Students ~ Communities ~ Streams ~ Connections* program was generously provided by a grant from the Discretionary Fund and the XYZ Fund of Centre County Community Foundation. Katy Haagen, Pleasant Gap Elementary School teacher, took her students to Millbrook Marsh for the first time this year. "Thank you, ClearWater, for giving us this great opportunity. The kids loved it!"

ClearWater is currently seeking additional program funding for field trips this fall. Interested teachers should submit scholarship applica-

tions by September 10, 2004. Additional information may be found at www.clearwaterconservancy.org. Millbrook Marsh Nature Center information is available at www.CentreConnect.org/crpr.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

A comprehensive listing of corporate sponsorship opportunities and donation options is now available for ClearWater events and publications. To learn more visit www.clearwaterconservancy.org.



Unique Resources...

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that the Barrens was a rich source of raw material for the iron furnaces that soon dotted the Central Pennsylvania landscape. In 1881 Pittsburgh industrialist Andrew Carnegie bought 400 acres from Centre Furnace ironmaster Moses Thompson and named his new company town Scotia, after his homeland of Scotland. A bustling company town sprang up, complete with large open-pit mines, ore-processing facilities, railroad service and all the necessities of village life.

Soon, however, ore supplies dwindled and competition from the Great Lakes area drew the market away from Central Pennsylvania. By 1911 Scotia was a ghost town, except for a brief mining resurgence during World War II.

Today, little remains of the mining town of Scotia, other than landforms, railbeds and archeological sites that could help reveal the story of Pennsyl-

vania iron-ore mining to future generations; a heritage park has been suggested for the area. The biggest clue to Scotia's history is the young age of the forest, due to years of clear-cutting to fuel iron furnaces. Pitch pine and scrub oak are numerous here.

HEADWATERS OF THE BIG SPRING

Under the sandy soil is a sandy dolomite bedrock, which allows ground water to flow through and also stores ground-water recharge in its pore spaces, fractures and openings. Within this bedrock, a fault zone of openings and caverns connects the Scotia Barrens to Bellefonte's Big Spring. Ground-water recharge from the 25 square miles of the Barrens is more than enough water to supply the 19 million gallons a day that flow from the Big Spring. Further evidence of this link can be found in the ratio of calcium to magnesium, which is the same in both water flowing from the



Bobcat. From the PA Game Commission Website.

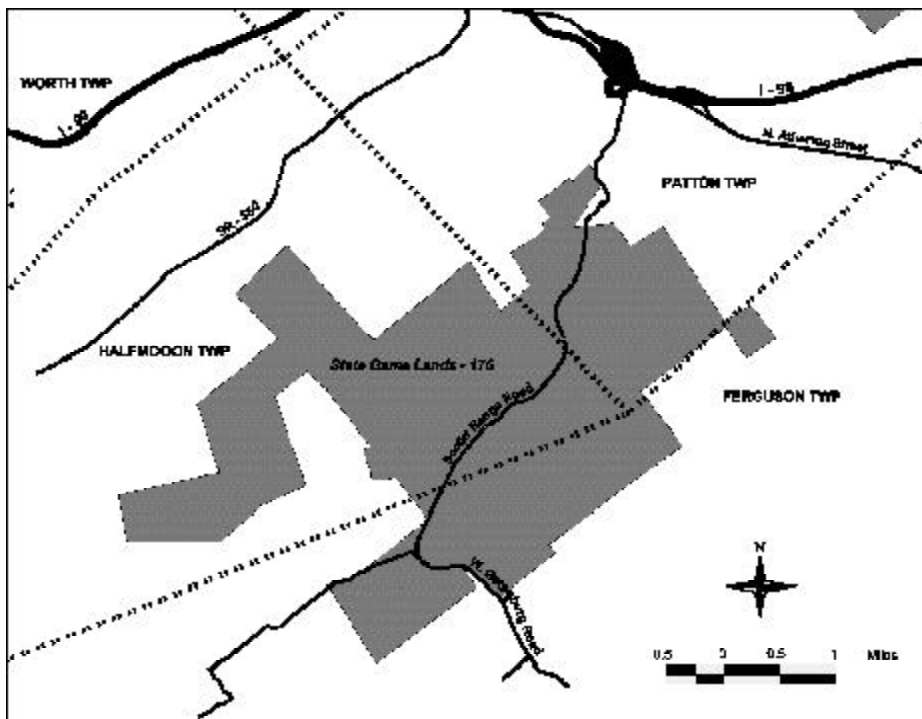
Big Spring and ground water under the Scotia Barrens.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

The unique topography of the Scotia Barrens makes it an area of exceptional significance from a biodiversity standpoint, according to the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory. A pair of parallel low-lying ridges run along the north and south boundaries of the Game Lands. At night, cold air drains off the slopes of Bald Eagle Mountain to the north and Tussey Mountain to the south, becoming trapped in this shallow valley. Temperatures here can be as much as 30 degrees colder than in nearby State College, and frost has been observed even in the summer. Frost retards plant growth, meaning plant and animal species here vary greatly from those even a mile or two away.

Last fall the Scotia Barrens was named one of the state's first Important Mammal Areas by the Important Mammal Areas Project, a partnership among several public and private organizations. The project envisions that conservation plans eventually will be developed for each IMA to remind land owners about critical mammal habitat.

The Scotia Barrens had previously been designated an Important Bird Area, meaning the site is part of a global network of places recognized for their outstanding value to bird conservation, in a program administered by the Audubon Society in the United States.



State Game Lands 176 located in Halfmoon, Ferguson, and Patton Townships in Centre County - part of the larger Scotia Barrens ecosystem. Map by Joe Bishop.

Scotia Barrens: An Important Bird Area

By **Katie Ombalski**

Pennsylvania's Important Bird Area (IBA) program is part of a world-wide effort, coordinated by BirdLife International, to identify and protect habitats that are critical to the conservation of birds. These areas may include migratory staging areas, winter feeding and roost sites, and prime breeding areas. They also include important habitats, such as spruce-fir bogs, tidal salt marshes, bottomland hardwood swamps, open grasslands, and barrens. In 1996, Pennsylvania Audubon developed the first state-wide IBA program in the United States and to date has designated 81 IBA sites across the Commonwealth.

To qualify as an IBA in Pennsylvania, a site must satisfy at least one of several criteria:

Any site having exceptional* concentration or diversity of birdlife

Sites with a significant population of state or federally-listed endangered or threatened species

Sites supporting a significant population of one or more species on Pennsylvania's "species of special concern" list

Sites containing representative, rare, threatened or unique habitats, with birds characteristic of those habitats

Sites where long-term avian research or monitoring is ongoing

* Defined as: 2,000 waterfowl (at one time – excludes resident Canada Geese), 100 shorebirds (at once), 50 breeding pairs of wading birds or 10,000 migrant raptors/season.

The Scotia Barrens were designated as an IBA because the site is 1) recognized within Pennsylvania as having an exceptional concen-

tration and diversity of birdlife featuring a high concentration of spring and fall migrating warblers (33+ species), 2) of major importance to Northern Saw-whet Owls, 3) one of the largest barrens left in the state, supporting breeding populations of Whip-poor-will, American Woodcock, and Ruffed Grouse, and 4) monitored by the State College Bird Club, important to the PA Game Commission's long-term research on Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkeys, and is regularly monitored for populations of breeding birds.


The Scotia Barrens are described as one of the largest examples of a pitch pine – scrub oak barrens remaining in Pennsylvania. Dominant tree and shrub species include chinkapin oak, chestnut oak, pitch pine, scrub oak, dwarf chestnut oak, and blueberry. The Barrens also have several small wetland areas as well as a large pond (Toftrees Pond). The unique habitats of the Barrens harbor large

numbers of Neotropical migrants during spring and fall migration. Thirty-three species of warblers have been observed including Blue-winged, Golden-winged,

Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-

throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Palm, Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Cerulean, Black-and-white, Redstart, Worm-eating Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

Once a site is designated an IBA, Pennsylvania Audubon will ensure the site is monitored for concentrations and diversity of birds but also for threats including habitat fragmentation, suburban sprawl, and over browsing by deer. To learn more about Pennsylvania's IBA Program go to pa.audubon.org.

Sources: *A Guide to Critical Bird Habitat in Pennsylvania*, Pennsylvania Audubon Society 1999. 



What you need to know when visiting State Game Lands

May 1 – May 29 is Spring Gobbler Season so if you plan on visiting the Scotia Barrens or other State Game Lands for recreational uses (e.g., hiking, jogging, biking, or bird watching), please respect the hunters. Hunting hours are from a half-hour before sunrise until noon Monday through Saturday. Hunters will be out of the woods by 1:00pm. It is advisable to wear blaze orange when visiting State Game Lands, especially during hunting season.

Birds of the Scotia Barrens

By **Nick Bolgiano**
Volunteer Contributor

Scotia Barrens is located west of State College, off Scotia Road, and is synonymous today with the 6,211 acres of State Game Lands 176. Early references to the “Pine Barrens” applied to an area of about 50,000 acres extending southwest from current-day Toftrees to Huntingdon County. Today’s Scotia Barrens is the portion of the Pine Barrens that has probably changed the least from that earlier time.

As you drive into the Game Lands, you will soon be on the rail bed of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Cinders from trains sparked frequent fires and residents of Scotia often trailed behind the train to extinguish those fires. A legacy of the railroad is the concentration of Pitch Pines near the rail route, as they require fire to regenerate. This species has become less common

because there are fewer fires than in the past; the Barrens’ stand of Pitch Pines is one of the largest in the state. These trees remind me of large bonsai.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission bought the Scotia lands from the Boal family, after Colonel Boal couldn’t

interest the government in using the site for a National Guard Military Reservation. Pictures from that time show a land in the beginning stages of recovery after much hard use. The trees on today’s Game Lands are maturing, except where frost occurs most intensely during the growing season and where the Game Commission has been conducting a grouse study since 1976. Within a large section, trees are periodically cut to allow biologists to study the effect of plant succession upon grouse numbers. This practice has also favored a large number of other species.

BIRD STUDY

Scotia Barrens has been named one of Pennsylvania’s 81 Important Bird Areas because of its large concentration of birds that require early-to-mid succession habitat and as a fall stopover spot for migrants that over-winter in the tropics.

The densities and numbers of some of the Barrens’ early succession species are astounding, especially as many have been widely declining across North America as forests grow older and land is lost to development. The accompanying table shows the counts of the 20 breeding species most frequently observed by former Penn State

graduate student Paul Rodewald and I.

One of these species, the Golden-winged Warbler, is worthy of particular note. They often sing from atop a Pitch Pine; the yellow, black, and white patterns of the birds against the tree forms lend a Japanese artwork flavor



Mike Lanzone
Female Golden-winged Warbler.

to scenes. Penn State graduate student Jake Kubel and I have tallied about 50 territorial males singing at the Barrens, possibly the highest number of any site in Pennsylvania. The breeding range of Golden-winged Warblers has been retracting, as early succession habitat has disappeared and as the range of a close relative, the Blue-winged Warbler, has correspondingly expanded. The Barrens is a very important refuge for Golden-winged Warblers.

The Barrens is also an important refuge for two other night-active, species of breeding birds that prefer sapling-stage habitat, American Woodcock and Whip-poor-will. Woodcock returned from their southern wintering areas in March and April. At dusk throughout spring, the males will fly high in a twisting route, displaying for a prospective mate their feathers making a chup-chup-chup sound as they descend. Upon landing, they emit several loud “peent” sounds before taking off again. The sound of Whip-poor-wills is heard less and less throughout our region, but as darkness falls in May or June, perhaps hundreds may be in song across the Barrens.

In late August and September, the Barrens host an impressive concentration of birds that fatten up before flying south to winter in the tropics. Flocks of several hundred warblers and vireos may sometimes be seen, especially between Scotia Pond and the grouse study area. Scotia (or Ten-acre) Pond was built for the mining operation and is fed by several artesian wells. The pond is just outside the Game Lands and is important habitat for both the migrant visitors and the breeding species of Scotia Barrens.

Species	Number
Eastern Towhee	521 *
Red-eyed Vireo	408
Chestnut-sided Warbler	408 *
Common Yellowthroat	392 *
Gray Catbird	326 *
Ovenbird	307
Chipping Sparrow	206 *
Scarlet Tanager	160
Black-capped Chickadee	157
Field Sparrow	156 *
American Goldfinch	149
Indigo Bunting	148 *
Cedar Waxwing	145
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	135 *
Tufted Titmouse	120
American Redstart	112 *
American Crow	98
Golden-winged Warbler	94 *
Blue Jay	91
Wood Thrush	88

**denotes a species of early-to-mid succession.*

Scotia Barrens: An Important Mammal Area

By **Katie Ombalski**

The Important Mammal Areas Project (IMAP) was created in 2002 to identify habitats that are critical to the conservation of mammals in Pennsylvania (PA). In addition, IMAP intends to increase public awareness about PA's diverse mammal heritage.

To become an Important Mammal Area (IMA), a site must meet one or more of the following criteria:

supports diverse or unique communities of mammals,

supports high density populations of mammals,

supports mammals listed as endangered or threatened by the PA Biological Survey,

supports mammals that are declining or vulnerable nationally or listed as candidate species by the PA Biological Survey, or

important for public education about resident mammals.

An area designated as an Important Mammal Area should be heavily weighted when making future land management, wildlife management, and land conservation decisions.

State Game Lands 176 ("the Barrens") was one of the first nominated sites to be designated as an IMA. This area was chosen because of the presence of Appalachian cottontails, a candidate species, its habitat diversity, and the presence of educational long-term research on mammal populations.

IMAP is made possible by a partnership between the National Wildlife Federation, PA Wildlife Federation, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, PA Game Commission, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Mammal Technical Committee/PA Biological Survey, and Indiana State University.

Sources: www.pawildlife.org/imap.htm

SCOTIA BARRENS' CRITICAL WATER RESOURCES ROLE IN THE SPRING CREEK WATERSHED

By **Todd Giddings**, Ph.D., P.G.
Volunteer Contributor

The Scotia Barrens consists of a deep, sandy soil with a very high infiltration capacity, underlying carbonate bedrock with solution openings that provide a very high capacity to store ground water, and a regional fault zone that is the location of solution conduit permeability.

These unique hydrogeologic characteristics are the reasons why the Scotia Barrens area is the headwaters of Big Spring in Bellefonte. Rainfall and snowmelt water that infiltrate into the Scotia Barrens soil percolates slowly down to the water table, and then flows northeast for a distance of thirteen miles to discharge from Big Spring at a rate of 19 million gallons per day. This high discharge rate makes Big Spring the second largest spring in Pennsylvania.

The high porosity of the bedrock underlying the Scotia Barrens makes this area the largest and most important ground-water reservoir in the Spring Creek Watershed. The contrasting hydrographs of two monitoring wells located less than 5 miles apart within the Spring Creek Watershed illustrate the high storage capacity of this ground-water reservoir, because

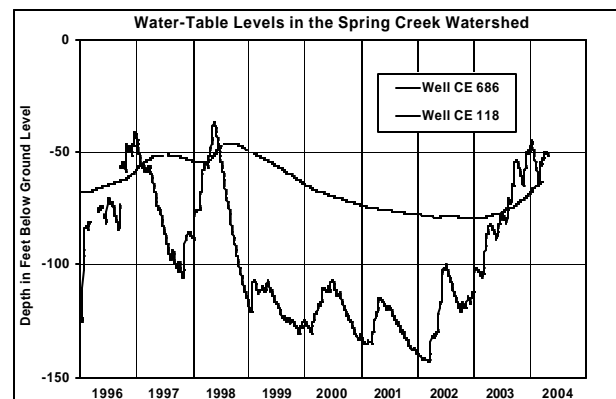
the water table level in well CE 118 does not respond quickly to rainfall or snowmelt recharge events.

Well CE 118 is located in the Scotia Barrens, and its hydrograph contrasts to the hydrograph of well CE 686 that is located in carbonate bedrock beneath the Cato Office Park, an urban setting two miles southwest of downtown State College.

Notice the lag in the CE 118 response to both major winter recharge events and to the "Invisible Drought" during the four years from 1999 through 2002. The subdued and delayed hydrograph of CE 118 reflects the very high ground-water storage capacity of the bedrock aquifer under the Scotia Barrens. This large ground-water reservoir fills and also drains much more slowly than the ground-water reservoir monitored by well CE 686. Remember, ground-water beneath the Scotia Barrens has to flow 13 miles before it can discharge from Big Spring and enter Spring Creek.

The other ground-water reservoirs in the Spring Creek Watershed have much shorter flow paths to their discharge points on Spring Creek and its tributaries, and so they drain more quickly during drought periods. Municipal well fields tap the Scotia

Barrens ground-water reservoir and Bellefonte gets its drinking water directly from Big Spring. The natural forest covering the Scotia Barrens enhances its recharge capacity. This undeveloped critical ground-water resource area benefits us all.



ClearWater Newsbriefs...

NEW... CONSERVATION EASEMENT PRESENTATION

ClearWater Conservancy has added to its Speakers Bureau a 30-minute presentation on conservation easements. A representative of ClearWater is available to visit your group to explain what a conservation easement is, the benefits of conservation easements, and the typical process for placing an easement on one's property. Other available presentation topics include backyard stream buffers, watershed-wise landscaping, and a ClearWater overview. There is no charge for a Speakers Bureau presentation; however, ClearWater greatly appreciates any donation your organization may make in exchange for this service. To request the conservation easement presentation, please contact Lynn at 237-0400.

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION PROVIDES HANDS-ON

CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE

Thirty people came out to Blue Spring Park in Boalsburg on Saturday, May 1st to celebrate Arbor Day with ClearWater Conservancy. Participants learned about the history of Arbor Day, about the importance of streamside buffers, and about key figures in ClearWater's history, Alice and George Beatty.

Following presentations by guest speakers, the group planted 350 feet of stream buffer with 150 native tree and shrub seedlings. The streamside buffer will improve the quality of the stream by preventing erosion, filtering pollutants, and shading the stream, which flows into Spring Creek.

Thanks to all of the participants and to event partners SPE Federal Credit Union and Centre Region Parks and Recreation.

"Other holidays repose upon the past; Arbor Day proposes for the future."

– J. Sterling Morton, Arbor Day founder

GOVERNOR'S CONSERVATION FUNDING INITIATIVE

Pennsylvanians strongly support new state environmental funding. But only you can make it happen!

Governor Rendell proposes \$200 million for open space acquisition and agricultural conservation easements as part of a \$1.4 billion Quality of Life initiative. Conservation leaders hail the proposal, known as Growing Greener 2, which will give a four-year boost to the existing Growing Greener program.

The Quality of Life proposal will protect open space, farms and forests, restore polluted land and water, and revitalize Pennsylvania's communities and economy. It will also buttress existing Growing Greener programs while generating millions to match funding given by the state. Growing Greener programs have protected and restored our natural resources while generating millions to match funding given by the state. It has successfully funded stream cleanup, farmland protection, park improvements, restoration of mine lands and

brownfields cleanup. Although the first five years of the Growing Greener program have led to remarkable achievements, the surface of the monumental list of problems has only been scratched.

These funds will have a positive impact on the health of Pennsylvania's natural resources and economy. To find out more about the proposal, visit www.keepgrowinggreener.org.

Please contact your legislators and ask for their support of the Quality of Life proposal. The future of Pennsylvania's natural resources and economy depend on it!

LAND CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

To more accurately reflect the responsibilities of ClearWater's Stewardship and Resources Committee, the board of directors and the Committee have agreed to rename the committee the "Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee." The Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee, which



Lynn Fosbender

Arbor Day family fun!

meets at 7:30am on the fourth Thursday of each month, prioritizes and pursues land conservation projects, and manages the property interests held by ClearWater.

STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLAN UNDERWAY

The Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee is reevaluating its process for identifying potential easement projects to insure we are being as strategic as possible in our land protection efforts. Given ClearWater's limited resources, we are undertaking an ambitious project to create a strategic land protection plan. The group will determine our geographic service area, then evaluate the conservation values of land within our service area, with GIS expertise provided by board member and Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee member Joe Bishop. The plan will determine areas of focus for proactive land protection projects, and provide a framework for evaluating easement requests from landowners.



WATERSHED CLEANUP YIELDS 36 TONS, 215 VOLUNTEERS

ClearWater's 8th Annual Watershed Cleanup Day was part of the 2004 Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, the most significant and ambitious one-day cleanup program in Pennsylvania history.

Our own 215 dedicated volunteers picked up 36 tons of trash and illegally dumped material from roadsides, sinkholes, and streams. This year we were especially pleased to recruit several Penn State student groups, scout troops, and 4-H clubs to join the team. Thanks to everyone that helped make this year's cleanup a success.

The theme of this year's Great Pennsylvania Cleanup was "Let's pick it up, PA!", but through education, "Let's make sure it doesn't get there in the first place!"

WATERSHED PLAN DIRECTION

On April 29, the Spring Creek Watershed Commission reviewed the public input gathered to help the elected and appointed officials prioritize the six main challenges facing the Spring Creek Watershed. The Commission decided that their most pressing need over the next several months is to develop an entity and process for implementing the Spring Creek Watershed Plan.

At future meetings, the Commission will hear more about the other five challenges: Identification and Protection of Critical Natural Resource Areas, Riparian Buffer Enhancement, Watershed Education, Stormwater Management, the Stream Impairments. They will learn who is working on these challenges, what tools they have at their disposal, and what needs to be done.

NEW MONITORING TECHNICIAN

Becky Dunlap is the new Water Monitoring Technician for the Spring Creek Watershed Community's Water Resource Monitoring Project. Bob Carline is the new chair for this project, which is contracted through the ClearWater Conservancy.

Welcome, Becky!

Many Ways to Support ClearWater Conservancy

Gift of Cash or Securities

ClearWater Conservancy accepts personal or corporate checks or credit cards, as well as gifts of stock. By giving appreciated stock, donors can avoid capital gains taxes, receive an income tax deduction, and support a cherished cause.

Planned Gifts

By including ClearWater Conservancy in your will or living trust, or naming ClearWater a beneficiary of your IRA, qualified retirement plan, or life insurance policy, you will leave a legacy of open space for generations to come and derive potential tax benefits as well.

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

Sometimes people wish to make special gifts in honor of someone else or in memory of a loved one which will leave a lasting conservation legacy.

Donations of Art & Chocolate

ClearWater receives donations of beautiful artwork and delicious chocolate from artists, businesses, and from supporters' collections for our annual "For the Love of Art & Chocolate".

Volunteering and Expertise

Volunteers help us with mailings, special events, easement monitoring, and many other projects. We are also interested in help from people with expertise in biology, websites, tax law, fundraising, marketing, land appraisal, surveying, and other conservation-related fields.

In-Kind Contributions

Donations of food, drink, plant materials, office supplies, printing, and a variety of other goods and services help to defray the costs of our projects and general operating expenses. Some items may be tax deductible as charitable contributions. Our wish list includes new carpet for the office, a plotter, a map storage case, garden tools, and a GPS unit.

Contact ClearWater Conservancy for more information about supporting our natural resource conservation and restoration work in the heart of central Pennsylvania.

I-99 Skytop Acid Rock Drainage and Bald Eagle Wetlands Sedimentation: *ClearWater's Statement of Concern*

"The Board of Directors of The ClearWater Conservancy and the Coordinating Committee of the Spring Creek Watershed Community wish to express their concern regarding the recent disclosure of environmental problems associated with the construction of I-99, specifically, the leaching of acid rock drainage (ARD) in and around Skytop and the alleged introduction of elevated levels of suspended sediments and metals into the Bald Eagle Valley wetlands.

As required by law, environmental impact studies were undertaken prior to the commencement of I-99 construction. These studies were specifically designed to assist all interested parties in anticipating, understanding, and avoiding the very kinds of problems that are now delaying construction of the roadway, endangering the health of a high quality trout stream (Buffalo Run), and threatening to degrade the Valley's exceptional quality wetlands.

Several agencies and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth are now tasked with proposing and approving a plan of action to address and eliminate the acid rock drainage that threatens Buffalo Run. These agencies include: the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Department of Environmental Protection (Pa DEP), the Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), and the Game Commission (PGC). The issues surrounding alleged deposition of elevated levels of sediment and metals into the Bald Eagle Valley wetlands are of such recent origin (CDT article 3/9/04) that, as far as we are aware, no official steps have yet been taken to identify the specific source(s) of the problems or to suggest possible remediation alternatives.

A clear and present danger exists in that important local waterways and wetlands may be significantly (and perhaps perma-

nently) lost or degraded. These natural resources are managed and regulated by the Commonwealth in trust for the people of Pennsylvania. As such, we think it is absolutely essential that the people who live and work in our surrounding communities be kept informed of all developments and have the opportunity to participate in current and future discussions regarding the issues at hand. As responsible

ACTIVITY UPDATE...

In response to our requests to PennDOT, ClearWater has been invited to participate in the meetings of the I-99 Partners Group. Katie Ombalski has been assisting the group in the efforts to more effectively communicate the problems and the proposed solutions to the public, and Walt Ebaugh has been involved in technical discussions associated with developing criteria for potential acid rock disposal.

PennDOT's proposed solution to the Acid Rock Drainage problem is due to the PA Department of Environmental Protection on May 15. Please watch the media for detailed information about the upcoming public meetings and public comment periods.

citizens, we cannot afford to disregard the lessons learned some thirty years ago when another high quality trout stream (Jonathan Run) was lost to acid rock drainage resulting from nearby highway construction activities on I-80.

In an effort to support the ongoing work of the Commonwealth and its representatives to address the issues at hand, and in support of the needs of our local citizens to understand and actively participate in the protection and restoration of our

natural resources, we propose that:

1. A public meeting be held with representatives from PennDOT, Pa DEP, PFBC, and PGC to engage the citizens of our communities in discussions regarding the existing environmental challenges and the proposed remedies.
2. A public review and comment period be scheduled following the proposal and selection of remedial solution(s).
3. The agencies and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth engage a panel of local professionals (including experts from the fields of aquatic biology, geochemistry, environmental engineering, geology, and hydrogeology) to be an integral part of the technical review process in evaluating the remedial solution(s).
4. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provide resources to manage, monitor, and respond to the performance of any selected remedial solution(s), be it complete removal of the ARD materials or long-term treatment.
5. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania perform a thorough review of how and why these problems occurred and what can be done to prevent such occurrences in the future.

As stakeholders in the Spring Creek and Bald Eagle watersheds we strongly encourage the Commonwealth and its representatives to work hand in hand with the people of our local communities to protect and preserve our natural resources. We believe that implementation of the steps outlined above will help to rebuild and restore faith in our collective abilities to work together to be responsible stewards of our environment."



A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Hello friends...

It is only May, but already I am so excited about Spring Creek Day this fall. This year, ClearWater has embarked on an ambitious idea to attract even more visitors to Spring Creek Day and increase public awareness of our area's precious natural resources. On Sunday, September 19, ClearWater will host Spring Creek Day at Fisherman's Paradise, near Bellefonte. Just upstream of Fisherman's Paradise is a beautiful stretch of stream called the Spring Creek Canyon.

According to the Spring Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, completed in 2001 for ClearWater Conservancy by the Penn State Department of Landscape Architecture, "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 towards Bellefonte."

As a special treat, we have partnered with Rockview to open up the entire Spring Creek Canyon for Spring Creek Day. Volunteers are organizing a variety of hikes and plant walks, a Spring Creek Canyon sojourn, and side trips to the Bellefonte Waterfront and the Philip Benner Cemetery. Of course, there will also be all of the usual Spring Creek Day festivities - music, food, educational displays, and demonstrations and activities for the whole family.

...Give me a call to get involved!

...

Our thanks to...

The 215 Watershed Cleanup Day volunteers who spent a gorgeous Saturday morning in April making our watersheds cleaner places to live! Special thanks to planning committee members **Jeff Sturniolo, Nancy VanLandingham, Don Watson, Carolyn Beans, Gert Aron, Paul Ruskin, and Michelle Merrow.** Thanks also to our site coordinators, municipal partners, **CCDA Waters, Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc., PennDOT, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Rob Smith Backhoe Services, and the Centre County Solid Waste Authority.**

Our Arbor Day partners - **SPE Federal Credit Union & Centre Region Parks and Recreation;** planting team leaders - **Bryce Boyer, Matt Genchur, Bill & Dorey Hilshey, Rob Shannon, and Carol Schempf;** speakers - **Barbara Fisher, Brian McCullough, Tim Phelps, Alan Sam, Rob Shannon;** and of course, our volunteer planters!

Marj Seward, Mary Anne Crafts, Ernie Hawk, Don Watson, and Art & Eleanor Tyson for great help around the office.

Don Hamer Conservation Challenge... continued

highest priority natural resource value. Imagine... permanently protected ribbons of green along our stream corridors, interconnected forest ecosystems, and preserved habitats for threatened and endangered species.

The Donald W. Hamer Land Conservation Fund is managed by the ClearWater Conservancy and invested in market index funds. Since there is access to principal, this Fund allows ClearWater greater flexibility when negotiating conservation transactions.

GOODBYE ANGIE, WELCOME BROOKS

Angela Mitchell, ClearWater's administrative assistant of four years, is moving on to pursue other opportunities and finish her degree. We wish her all the best in these new pursuits.



ClearWater's new Office Manager will be serving as the financial, membership, and volunteer coordinator for the organization. Please welcome Brooks Parker as you get the opportunity to interact with him in the coming months. We are very excited about the contributions that Brooks will make to ClearWater.

I PLEDGE...

\$ _____

Payable over _____ years

To the Donald W. Hamer Land Conservation Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to ClearWater Conservancy. Memo - Don Hamer Challenge.

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

Summer 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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