



Historic Potter Farm and its Natural Resources Protected by Local, State, and Federal Partnership

By **Lynn Fosbender**
Land Protection Coordinator

After three years of work on behalf of local, county, state and federal groups, a historic Brush Valley farm's natural and agricultural resources will be protected in perpetuity. ClearWater Conservancy and the farm's owners, Taylor and Elizabeth Potter, signed a conservation easement protecting the water and forest resources on the property in September of 2003.

The 197.5-acre Potter Farm, located in Harris and Potter Townships, has been in the Potter family since 1793. A spring located on the property is the main source of water for Mackey Run, a tributary of Spring Creek. Over a dozen additional springs are located on the property.

The conservation easement held by ClearWater Conservancy covers over 80 acres of the property, including the stream, a stream buffer area, wetlands, springs, and an upland forest area located on the southeast-facing slope of Mount Nittany. The conservation easement prevents activities that could harm water quality, such as building structures or earthmoving, within a stream buffer zone. Over 50 acres of sloped forestland that pro-

vide habitat for wildlife and recharge groundwater will also be protected by the easement.

To protect the agricultural qualities of the property, the Centre County Planning Office will hold an easement on the agricultural portion of the property through the Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The agricultural easement will cover approximately 105 acres, which include the tillable land. The Potters are reserving 10 acres from

the easements to accommodate their future needs. The agricultural easement is expected to be signed in the spring of 2004.

The project has been a three-year collaboration among ClearWater Conservancy, Centre County government, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Program will be funding

(continued on page 3)



Lynn Fosbender

Partnerships bring land conservation to life. Taylor and Betty Potter sign their conservation easement, surrounded by representatives from many of the organizations who made it possible for them to protect their family farm.

Calendar

Monthly Meetings

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

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

Stewardship & Resources Committee
4th Thursday, 7:30 – 9 am
Note, November and December
meetings are on the 3rd Thursday!

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

Special Opportunities

November 25, 7 – 8:30 pm
Fundraising Workshop with Bill
Worobec, Lycoming College,
Williamsport. RSVP to
ssteinbach@state.ps.us by November
15. Call 237-0400 for carpooling
information.

December 13, 9:30 – noon
PALTA Land and Water Conservation
Roundtable, Hildacy Farm, Media,
Delaware County. A roundtable
discussion on protecting water re-
sources using conservation easements
and other acquisition tools featuring
expert conservation attorney Pat
Pregmon of Pregmon Law Offices.
RSVP to (717) 230-8560.

January 18, 1 – 4 pm
For the Love of Art & Chocolate Art

Exhibition, Art Alliance, Lemont. Call
Darlene at 466-6523 for more info.

January 23, 7 – 10 pm
For the Love of Art & Chocolate,
ClearWater's annual benefit event, The
Penn Stater. Call 237-0400 for tickets.
\$25

Volunteer Opportunities

Workshop Coordinator—Plan a
series of homeowner workshops, to be
held in spring 2004, for the demon-
stration project, "Conservation Techniques
for Watershed-Wise Backyards and
Businesses." Topics may include rain
gardens, backyard wildlife habitat,
landscaping with native plants, etc.
The Workshop Coordinator will find
workshop presenters and coordinate
logistics for the workshop series. For
more information, contact Lynn at 237-
0400.

Workshop Presenters—Conduct a
workshop (1-2 hours long) related to the
demonstration project, "Conservation
Techniques for Watershed-Wise
Backyards and Businesses." See
above for details.

Webmaster—Take charge of our web
site, www.clearwaterconservancy.org.

Photo Archive Coordinator—Cata-
logue our photos on the computer using
an easy to learn program.

**Adventures in Conservation 2004
Planning Team Members**—Organize
and lead an activity. Call Jennifer to
join the fun!



ClearWater Conservancy

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*deceased

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Executive Director: Jennifer Shuey
Administrative Assistant: Angela Mitchell
Watershed Coordinator: Katie Ombalski
Land Protection Coordinator: Lynn Fosbender
Watershed Planner: Matt Genchur

ClearWater News is published bimonthly by ClearWater
Conservancy. The mission of ClearWater is to promote
responsible stewardship of the natural and historical
resources of central Pennsylvania by:

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

ClearWater Conservancy

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(814) 237-0400 www.clearwaterconservancy.org
contactus@clearwaterconservancy.org

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

Our thanks to...

Clare Wagner for organizing and
facilitating ClearWater's Growing Native
2003: Seeds to Trees Program at Thomp-
son Woods Preserve. Also to **George
Hildenbrandt** for helping out.

Christopher Shannon for assisting with
website updates this fall.

**Mac Rayback, Neil Korostoff, Denny &
Karen Zwigart, Diane Kerly, and Dan
Crust** for contributing to the newly-

established ClearWater Conservancy
Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund
(see "Newsbriefs," page 6). A very special
thanks to the **anonymous donor** who
contributed \$20,000, and to the Centre
County Community Foundation for their
help getting this Fund established!

Thompson Woods fence subcommittee
members for their work - **Max Gill, Walt
Ebaugh, Tom Songer, and Jeff Sturniolo**.
Special thanks also to **Apollo Fence Co.**

A Note from your President

In this issue you'll read about one of our most recent conservation success stories... how your ClearWater Conservancy was able to leverage financial resources, coordinate with a team of partners, and carry out the wishes of a local family with deep historical roots in Centre County. At the end of a long process will be a permanently protected 197-acre farm in Harris and Potter Townships. ClearWater's conservation easement on the Potter farm now provides permanent protection for over 80 of those acres as well as several important springs that flow down the southeastern foothills of Mount Nittany contributing clean, cool water to the headwaters of Spring Creek.



This complex transaction, which involves a conservation easement protecting aquatic and forest resources, and an agricultural easement protecting farmlands, has been hailed as the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, and perhaps even the nation.

I'm tremendously proud of our ClearWater staff members (particularly our Watershed Coordinator, Katie Ombalski) who worked so diligently over a three year period to make ClearWater's easement a reality. I'm pleased that ClearWater and its partners were able to work cooperatively to bring together the many resources and talents that were necessary to get the job done.

Our thanks go out to the Potter family for recognizing the importance of the environmental resources on their property and for loving their land enough to ensure its protection for all time. Thanks also to all of our partners who worked with us to make the Potters' dream come true.

And last, but certainly not least, our thanks go out to all of you, our members and our volunteers, for your contributions of time, financial resources, and talent. Without your support, none of this could have happened. So read on, and find out how you've helped to protect the natural beauty and environmental resources of our Spring Creek Watershed.

Brian


Historic Potter Farm and its Natural Resources Protected by Local, State, and Federal Partnership ...continued

the purchase of and holding the agricultural easement. The purchase of the natural resources easement was funded through an EPA penalty fine. The PA Fish and Boat Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service directed the project through the EPA's Biological Technical Assistance Group.

Mark A. Hartle, a fisheries biologist with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission who was one of several key players in this project, stated that the project is "the first in Pennsylvania, and possibly the nation, in which a conservation easement protecting 80 acres of forested, wetland and

stream corridor areas complements an agricultural easement of over 100 acres through the Farmland Preservation Program. It is a wonderful precedent and the best win-win scenario with which I have been involved."

Watershed Coordinator Katie Ombalski, another key player of this project, stated that "thanks to the help and collaboration of multiple agencies, organizations, and community volunteers, we were able to make it happen." The Potters expressed interest to ClearWater Conservancy in protecting their farm years ago, and ClearWater is happy to have found a

way to meet their needs in order to protect the property forever. 



ClearWater Conservancy's Land Protection Program: Working with Landowners to Protect Critical Lands

About ClearWater's Land Protection program

Through our land trust activities, ClearWater Conservancy seeks to balance growth and development in our community with the conservation of important open space resources. ClearWater Conservancy protects land primarily by working with landowners who wish to donate conservation easements, although we strive to be creative when a property worthy of protection presents itself.

Accomplishments

ClearWater Conservancy holds five conservation easements totaling over 600 acres of property, and has helped to protect over 2,400 additional acres of open space. ClearWater received its first conservation easement in 1986. This easement protects Rhoneymead Farm, a 140-acre historic farm located in Potter Township. Once part of William Penn's Nottingham Manor, this was the first conservation easement in central Pennsylvania. In 1990, a conservation easement on another historic farm, Nittany Farms was donated to ClearWater. This 287-acre rolling farm is located in Harris Township in the headwaters of Spring Creek.

In addition to these agricultural/scenic easements, ClearWater Conservancy holds easements that conserve biodiversity by protecting critical habitat. In 1991, the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory (CCNHI) identified Millbrook Marsh as "highly significant," as it is the county's best and by far largest example of a calcareous (or limestone) marsh—one of

the rarest types of natural communities in the county. This wetland is home to several uncommon species of plants, as well as other species of special concern. Several local groups, including ClearWater, worked to establish the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center on this site. We are honored to hold a conservation easement on 50 acres of the Marsh (see Fall 2003 *ClearWater News* for more information).

Adjacent to Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, Millbrook Marsh Fen is home to an ecological community even more rare than the marsh. Unlike the marsh, which is primarily fed by surface water, the fen is a spring-fed wetland. The previous owner of the fen generously donated the 5.5 acres to ClearWater Conservancy in 2000.

Thompson Woods Preserve

offered another opportunity for ClearWater to protect a property that provides valuable habitat and conserves the area's water quality. Thompson Woods Preserve was slated to become a residential subdivision when ClearWater Conservancy approached the landowner and developer to discuss the ecological importance of the area. With the cooperation of all parties, the most ecologically sensitive portion of Thompson Woods was spared from development. The landowner agreed to sell the property to ClearWater Conservancy below market value, and through a massive fundraising effort, ClearWater was able to secure funds from contributors including local community members, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the R.K. Mellon Foundation, State College Borough, and College Township. Following the

Volunteer Spotlight: Land Protection Intern

Hello, I'm Bill Hilshey, ClearWater Conservancy's newest and perhaps oldest intern. Receiving a BA in biology from Northeastern University in Boston, I then completed an MD degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA. I trained in Internal Medicine and Cardiovascular Diseases at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. My home is in Hollidaysburg where I have been in private cardiology practice for the past twenty years. Redirecting my life, I retired from medicine and am currently pursuing an alternative career. Loving the outdoors and the activities and beauty that it can offer, and seeing the opposing pressures of development, I believe well-planned land conservation is an imperative. To this end, I have sought an internship at ClearWater Conservancy to gain knowledge and insight which will better position me to further the cause of land protection. If all goes as planned and with a little luck, in the near future I will be attending graduate school in Forest Resources. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the members and staff of ClearWater Conservancy for providing to me the forum to advance my knowledge of land protection issues.

purchase, ClearWater assured the property's future protection by placing a conservation easement on it, prohibiting future development of the property. The ownership of the property was then transferred to College Township and State College Borough, and the property is now managed as a passive use preserve by Centre Region Parks and Recreation.

ClearWater Conservancy's most recent easement acquisition was on the Potter Farm, located in Harris and Potter Townships (see lead article). After three years of working with local, county, state, and federal agencies, in September of 2003 ClearWater Conservancy signed an easement protecting the water and habitat resources on the Potter Farm.

Future Plans

ClearWater Conservancy's Land Protection Program is at a turning point. For the first time in ClearWater's history, a significant portion of the Land Protection Program is funded. This funding will provide for some program costs as well as a staff position, and accelerate the pace of our land conservation.

Given our very limited resources, developing a strategy for our Land Protection Program is essential. The Stewardship and Resources Committee is about to create a Strategic Conservation Plan, to ensure our resources are used as efficiently as possible, conserving the properties that are most important to ClearWater's mission.

As part of a Riparian Conservation Program, cooperatively led by the Spring Creek Watershed Community, the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and ClearWater Conservancy, we will implement a riparian easement program. A riparian easement is a special type

of conservation easement that applies to a specified zone next to a stream. Riparian easements are written to protect these streamside areas, thereby protecting

“A land trust is a nonprofit organization that, as all or part of its mission, actively works to conserve land by undertaking or assisting direct land transactions—primarily the purchase or acceptance of donations of land or conservation easements.”

— Land Trust Alliance

water quality and streamside habitat. This project will put us on the path to implementing our vision of a “ribbon of green” along Spring Creek and its tributaries.

Also, ClearWater Conservancy is waiting to hear whether grant funding will be provided for a project to protect sites listed in the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory. If funded, this project will allow us to work with landowners to conserve our county's biological diversity by protecting rare, threatened, and endangered species.

Stewardship and Resources Committee

ClearWater Conservancy's Stew-

ardship and Resources Committee leads our land protection efforts. The Committee seeks to protect places of ecological, historic, scenic, and cultural value located in Centre County and adjacent counties through non-adversarial, voluntary methods.

The responsibilities of the Committee include:

- Establishing goals, determining priorities, and developing policies for land protection;
- Determining the most appropriate method for protection, which may include making management recommendations, referring the landowner to another organization, placing a conservation easement on the property, or acquiring land;
- Pursuing the most appropriate method of protection; and
- Managing conservation easements, which may include creating stewardship plans, annual monitoring of properties, and maintaining landowner relations.

The Committee includes biologists, farmers, real estate agents, engineers, and community activists. Once a month, the Committee meets to report on their work and explore new projects. Outside of regular meetings, the committee meets with prospective easement donors, visits potential conservation sites, conducts the regular monitoring of eased properties, and creates baseline documentation for projects. To volunteer, please call Lynn at 237-0400.



For more information on:

ClearWater's Land Protection Program, see:
http://www.clearwaterconservancy.org/land_protection.htm

The Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory, see:
<http://county.centreconnect.org/151.htm>

Land trusts, see:
<http://www.lta.org/aboutlt/index.html>

ClearWater **Newsbriefs...**

CONSERVATION EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP FUND CREATED

When ClearWater Conservancy accepts an easement, we make the commitment to protect the land under easement forever. We achieve this through easement monitoring, maintaining landowner relations, and preventive measures.

In order to permanently fund these activities, ClearWater Conservancy has established the ClearWater Conservancy Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund. Managed by the Centre County Community Foundation, the Fund will provide an endowment for the ongoing stewardship of ClearWater Conservancy's conservation easements.

Contributions to the ClearWater Conservancy Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund help us keep our commitment to conservation. To contribute, contact the Centre County Community Foundation at (814) 237-6229.

GRANT AWARDED FOR RIPARIAN CONSERVATION

In September, DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, on behalf of Gov. Edward G. Rendell, announced that over \$37.4 million in Growing Greener grants will go to local conservation organizations to help finance their continuing efforts to clean up watersheds and increase environmental protection. ClearWater Conservancy was granted \$150,000 to establish a Riparian Conservation Program for the Spring Creek Watershed, in collaboration with the Spring Creek Watershed Community and the

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

A recent PA DEP assessment of Spring Creek has confirmed that nonpoint source pollution from agricultural, urban, and industrial runoff, and the degradation of riparian buffer zones from human activity have left parts of the watershed unprotected. Riparian vegetation buffers lessen the effects of nonpoint source pollution by stabilizing stream banks to reduce erosion, filtering pollutants from stormwater and runoff, and slowing the flow of such runoff. Through the Growing Greener grant, the Riparian Conservation Program will work to educate the public on the importance of riparian vegetation, help landowners establish or restore buffers on their property, and offer permanent protection options for riparian properties.

Additional funding for the project was provided through a \$50,000 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant.

SPRING CREEK RESTORATION WINS GOVERNOR'S AWARD

ClearWater Conservancy was recognized for Environmental Excellence in the category of watershed stewardship for the stream and riparian restoration and stormwater management demonstration project at the Pennsylvania Military Museum in Boalsburg!

ClearWater created the Spring Creek Restoration and Urban Runoff Demonstration to restore the stream corridor and surrounding riparian areas using environmentally sound practices and to educate about stream and native meadow restoration and better stormwater management.

State Representative Kerry Benninghoff shared a Citation sponsored by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in recognition of the accomplishments of the ClearWater Conservancy. "It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the ClearWater Conservancy as a recipient of the 2003 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. I am pleased and humbled by ClearWater's commitment to the community," said Benninghoff. "Your work demonstrates respect and concern for the local community and serves as an example to others surrounding us."

CLEARWATER STAFF ATTEND LAND TRUST RALLY

Lynn Fosbender and Jennifer Shuey attended this year's Land Trust Rally in Sacramento. Lynn learned about strategic conservation planning, river protection, and landowner relations while Jen focused on volunteer management and strategic funding plans.

Lynn also recently received LTA training on conservation easement stewardship and conserving land with conservation easements in part by the



Native meadow plants buffer Spring Creek from stormwater runoff.

Pennsylvania Land Trust Matching Grants Program administered by the Land Trust Alliance - Mid Atlantic Program with the support of the William Penn Foundation.

FOR THE LOVE OF ART & CHOCOLATE

What could be better than wonderful works of art inspired by nature, salsa dancing, roaming magicians, live music by Jazza-Ma-Phone, and all of the delicious chocolate confections you care to eat?

January 23, 2004 marks the fifth year for ClearWater's chocolate extravaganza and the second year for the silent nature art auction. Local artists and their supporters are donating wonderful pieces whose inspirations come from a reverence and awe for the natural world. Come prepared to bid on works from over 30 artists. A preview of the pieces will be held a week before at the Art Alliance in Lemont on Sunday, January 18, from 1-4 pm.

Your \$25 ticket provides entrance to this enjoyable evening, makes you eligible for door prizes, AND provides valuable support for the ClearWater Conservancy! Tickets will be for sale starting in mid-December at the ClearWater Conservancy offices (237-0400) and at many area businesses.

Special thanks to corporate sponsors **Mitotyping Technologies** and **The Richards Group of Kissinger Bigatel & Brower Realtors**.

CALL FOR ART

If you are an artist, or a supporter of the arts, and would like to donate a piece for the silent nature art auction, please contact Darlene Weener at darleneathome@adelphia.net or 466-6523. We are interested in art that either represents nature or is inspired

by nature. The piece needs to be ready for pick-up on January 5.

2002 WATER RESOURCES MONITORING REPORT

The Water Resources Monitoring Project of the Spring Creek Watershed Community has now completed five years of baseflow measurements on Spring Creek and its tributaries. In 2002, a significant effort was made to analyze the baseflow and stormwater data. Summaries of these findings are presented in the report along with additional data highlights from 2002 (see inset on the right).

Copies of this report are now available by calling 237-0400. Monitoring data can also be accessed at www.springcreekwatershed.org.

CCCF FUNDS "CONNECTIONS"

ClearWater received \$5,000 from the Centre County Community Foundation's Discretionary Grants Fund and the anonymous XYZ Fund for outdoor student education at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Scholarships to interested Centre County schools are intended to offset program fees, transportation, and materials.

On behalf of all the children and families who will benefit from this experience, we offer our heartfelt thanks!

NATIVE PLANTS NEEDED

The 2004 Plant Celebration will be held on Saturday May 1 at the Centre Furnace Mansion. If you are interested in donating native plants for the sale, please contact Katie at 237-0400 for more information. You could help by dividing established native plants from your own garden or by propagating new plants from seed. No donation is too small!

A Sampling of Data Highlights from the Water Resources Monitoring Project

(Spring Creek Watershed Community, 2003)

Precipitation during 2002 was about 10% above normal, but flows in Spring Creek near Milesburg were about 17% below average, which reflected the below normal levels of groundwater.

The above average precipitation in 2002 resulted in a 40-foot rise in a monitoring well two miles southwest of State College, which marks the beginning of the end of the extended regional drought.

Logan Branch, which contributes the largest flow among all tributaries, nearly doubles the flow in Spring Creek near their confluence in Bellefonte.

Nitrate concentrations in Spring Creek and its tributaries were always less than the drinking water standard of 10 mg/L, with most samples less than 5 mg/L. Cedar Run was the largest contributor of nitrate to Spring Creek.

During stormflows, copper, zinc, and lead were most often detected, and at the highest levels, in lower Logan Branch, Thompson Run, and Spring Creek at Milesburg. Among all stations copper was the least frequently detected (about 15% of the time) and lead was most frequently detected (more than 70%).

During stormflows, concentrations and total amounts of ammonia, chloride, total organic carbon, orthophosphate, and total suspended sediment were highest in Slab Cabin Run and Thompson Run. Logan Branch consistently delivered the lowest amounts of organic carbon and suspended sediments.

Concentrations of dissolved oxygen, which were consistently high at all sampling stations, were more than adequate to support aquatic life.

The average pH among all stations was about 8.0 (basic conditions), and it rarely fell below 7.0 (mildly acidic conditions).

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR CONSERVATION LANDS

By **Lynn Fosbender**, Land Protection Coordinator

The natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources of central Pennsylvania contribute to this area's high quality of life. These attributes draw people to the area, both as residents and as tourists; but as our resident and tourist populations grow, the very resources that attract people to central Pennsylvania are threatened. Land protection methods such as conservation easements work to balance development, ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy the places that make central Pennsylvania special.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

A conservation easement is a means to permanently protect the conservation resources of a particular piece of land. It is a legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified organization or agency that protects the natural, historic, cultural, and/or scenic resources of a property. By donating an easement, the landowner voluntarily gives up some of his or her property rights, such as the right to subdivide or the right to build structures, in order to protect the resources of the land.

When a landowner grants a conservation easement to an organization such as ClearWater Conservancy, the landowner retains ownership of the property while agreeing to limit certain

activities that may be harmful to the resources of the property. The landowner and ClearWater Conservancy work together to determine which restricted and permitted land uses best accommodate the needs of both parties. This leaves the landowner free to use their property just as they did before the easement agreement, as long as it is consistent with the conditions of the easement. ClearWater Conservancy then takes on the responsibility of ensuring the land's protection in perpetuity.

WHY GRANT A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

Permanent protection

Conservation easements protect the property's resources in perpetuity. If the land is sold, the terms of the easement agreement remain in effect.

Property remains in private ownership

Conservation easements allow the property owners to retain their ownership rights.

Landowners are free to use their property just as they did before the easement agreement, so long as the use is consistent with the conditions of the easement.

Flexibility

Every easement agreement is different. The landowner and ClearWater

Conservancy work together to determine which restricted and permitted land uses best accommodate the needs of both parties.

Tax benefits

Donating a conservation easement in perpetuity may provide income tax, property tax, and estate tax benefits.

HOW LONG DOES THE EASEMENT LAST?

To receive tax benefits, the easement must be granted in perpetuity. Conservation easements remain with the property; therefore any future owner of the property is also bound by the conditions of the easement.

WHAT COSTS TO THE LANDOWNER ARE INVOLVED?

Costs that the landowner may incur include: legal and accounting assistance, survey costs, recording fees, and appraisal fees. Reasonable costs associated with easement donation may be tax-deductible. ClearWater Conservancy asks that the landowner consider donating to an endowment to cover the costs of easement stewardship responsibilities, such as routine monitoring, preventive measures, and compliance enforcement.

WHAT ARE CLEARWATER CONSERVANCY'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE EASEMENT?

When ClearWater Conservancy partners with a landowner to place a conservation easement on his or her property, we accept the responsibility of ensuring the land's protection in perpetuity.

To fulfill our responsibilities, we regularly monitor easement properties to be sure no violations of the conservation easement have occurred. If a violation is discovered, ClearWater must be prepared to defend the terms of the easement – even if it means resolving the violation in court.

ClearWater's CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

1986 - Rhoneymeade Farm	140 acres
1990 - Nittany Farms	287 acres
2000 - Thompson Woods Preserve	43 acres
2000 - Millbrook Marsh	50 acres
2003 - Potter Farm	81 acres

The Donald W. Hamer Land Conservation Fund

The Donald W. Hamer Land Conservation Fund was established in 1995 to honor Donald W. Hamer for his dedication to the conservation of the natural, historical, and cultural resources of Centre County. This Fund is used solely to support the land trust activities of ClearWater Conservancy, including preservation of open space, unique habitats, and environmentally sensitive lands in central Pennsylvania. Please send contributions to ClearWater Conservancy, 2555 North Atherton Street, State College, PA 16803. On the check's memo line, indicate "Hamer Fund."

CLEARWATER ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR, BESTOWS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ClearWater members gathered on November 11 for their annual tradition of food and fellowship, the ClearWater Conservancy Annual Dinner and Meeting. In addition to socializing with fellow conservationists and old and new friends, members enjoyed a wonderful chicken dinner, reviewed ClearWater's accomplishments in 2003, and learned about using a new multimedia tool for preserving open space courtesy of Kelleann Foster, ClearWater Director and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at PSU.

Seven existing Directors wished to remain active in shaping the mission, providing oversight, reaching out to the community, and securing the resources for ClearWater. Ellie Beaver, Walt Ebaugh, Chris Finton, Barbara Fisher, Brian McCullough, Tom Songer, and Jeff Sturniolo were re-elected to the Board.

In addition, the membership elected one new Director, **Joe Bishop**. Joe brings expertise in GIS technology and a biological background to the Board, and his fellow Directors and the ClearWater staff are looking forward to working with Joe on land conservation and mapping initiatives.

Gene Proch decided to step down from the Board of Directors after serving for three years. The Board

expressed their sincere appreciation for all of Gene's efforts for ClearWater and his leadership in the Spring Creek Watershed Community. Gene still has some great volunteer ideas in mind and will continue to help ClearWater promote conservation in his new capacity at the Mount Nittany Vineyard & Winery.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of this year's Volunteer of the Year Award. Congratulations to **Bryce Boyer** for taking home this honor and for setting a shining example for volunteers everywhere. Bryce is instrumental in the Spring Creek Water Resources Monitoring Project that ClearWater operates on behalf of the Spring Creek Watershed Community. He also works tirelessly at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center overseeing the Boardwalk construction. He is quick to offer any assistance needed around the office, and in addition we know that he is an invaluable volunteer for several other organizations in town!

In February, ClearWater's Board of Directors will be gathering for a strategic planning retreat to discuss Board responsibilities, focus the organization's direction for 2004, and enable the creation of a strategic funding plan. To offer input to this process, please contact Jennifer at jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org.

Our thanks to...

Shannon Schmidt for developing the Riparian and Native Meadow Management Plan for the PA Military Museum as a fall internship.

Allison Kuchta for managing public relations activities as her fall internship, including press releases, brochures, media contact updates, the photo archive, and the Spring Creek Day Handbook.

Pat Morse, Diane Kerly, and Max Gill for assisting with the budget process and financial reporting.

Bill Hilshey for developing a Handbook for the Stewardship & Resources Committee.

Dave Wasson, Mark Whitfield, Greg Roth, and Ron Woodhead of the Thompson Woods subcommittee of the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center for their input in developing a Management Plan for Thompson Woods Preserve. Special thanks to **Tom Smith** for his insight.

Marj Seward, Don Watson, and Bryce Boyer for office assistance.

Our **United Way Day of Caring Team** for their hard work planting trees, seeding the wildflower meadow, painting the bathroom, and helping with office tasks.

The **Chesapeake Bay Foundation** for offering free native plants for ClearWater's new Riparian Conservation Program and to **Herbert, Rowland, and Grubic** for picking them up for us in Lancaster!

Joan Sattler, DEP Watershed Manager for her assistance with several Spring Creek Watershed initiatives.

Kelleann Foster and Darlene Weener for chairing the "For the Love of Art & Chocolate" planning committee and doing such a great job!

Our whole host of **new members** who joined in 2003. We hope you like what you see and enjoy making your contribution to the conservation of our precious natural resources.

Spring Creek Day 2003: From a Fresh Perspective

By **Allison Kuchta**, ClearWater Public Relations Intern



Harry George

A father and son enjoy the beautiful September weather by wading into the cool, clear Bathgate Run.



Harry George

Todd Giddings teaches groundwater flow with a model from the Pennsylvania Ground Water Association.



Harry George

Kathy Derge helps a group of children to catch and identify macroinvertebrates in the stream.



Christopher Shannon

Kids create their own wetlands with the help of volunteers from the Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center.

This year's Spring Creek Day was recently held at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center on September 28. Just getting into my internship at the ClearWater Conservancy, I was new to the Nature Center and excited to see what I had been contacting people about for the past month. When I turned off of College Avenue and headed up Puddintown Road, I had no idea what lay before me. The vast expanse of trees, marsh vegetation, and the stream... it was hard to believe this was just minutes from my downtown State College apartment!

I spent most of the day helping with registration and handing out programs for the day's events. I met a lot of families, members of the Conservancy, and even some of the people who helped start ClearWater. I also fielded many questions about what Spring Creek Day was all about. I was glad to try to answer questions, as this meant that public interest had been sparked enough to bring in people that weren't yet familiar with Millbrook Marsh and its Nature Center.

Later in the afternoon, I had the chance to wander along the display tables from various local organizations and businesses. I saw many connections being made—whether it was someone learning about composting their food scraps or an eager child constructing his or her own wetland, Spring Creek Day was making its mark. It also proved that you're never too old to learn something new!

As I reached the newly completed boardwalk, I passed a group of children who were helping a Nature Center employee test the wet soil. The children didn't hesitate to get their hands dirty or shout out the names of wetland plants that they recognized. Walking along the boardwalk, I passed people strolling leisurely and children peering over the bridge to look for fish in the water. Many people paused for a reflective moment in a nook off the main boardwalk, a shaded platform just over the water. Overall, people seemed to be enjoying themselves and all that Millbrook Marsh had to offer.

Spring Creek Day gave more than 300 people an opportunity to learn about local environmental businesses and organizations while spending a beautiful fall day outside with friends and family. More importantly, it presented the product of much hard work to the public.

ClearWater Conservancy protects the marsh ecosystem with a conservation easement. And generous contributions of time and money from organizations and citizens shaped the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and its boardwalk, allowing people to enjoy a natural escape in the middle of a busy town like State College.

I hope you will attend next year's event, and bring more friends—the more people who catch a glimpse of this natural beauty, the easier it will become to conserve similar natural areas!

A NOTE FROM JENNIFER



Hello friends...

Thank you so much to all of the volunteers who worked to make **Spring Creek Day 2003** the best ever. I sincerely appreciate all of the time and effort shared to teach the community about our watershed and its natural and cultural resources.

Year-end **Holiday Appeal** letters will be arriving in your mailbox soon. Please consider making a contribution to the conservation of natural resources in central Pennsylvania. This is not your regular membership renewal but an additional holiday gift to ClearWater. Your tax-deductible gift is an important way to make a difference in the community.

Gift Memberships to the ClearWater Conservancy are also available in honor of someone you care about. The gift of conservation will last forever!

...Happy Holidays

SPRING CREEK DAY THANKS!

DISPLAYS... Bald Eagle Archeological Society, CC League of Women Voters, CC Conservation District, CC Dairy Princess, CC PA Senior Environmental Corps, CC Planning Office, CC Solid Waste Authority, Centre Wildlife Care, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Centre Region Parks & Recreation, ELA Group, Joel Confer Toyota, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, PA Game Commission, PA Ground Water Association, PA Spatial Data Access, PSU Center for Watershed Stewardship, PSU Cooperative Wetlands Center, PSU Master Gardeners of CC, Spring Creek Watershed Commission, Spring Creek Watershed Community, State Representative Kerry Benninghoff, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, USFilter, Venture Scout Crew 325

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAM... Molly Hetrick, Jen Rubbo, Kristen Hychka, Melinda Farr, Matt & Beth Genchur, Todd Giddings, Ann Donovan, Gil Hirshel, Melinda Downey, Kathy Derge, Mary Alice Graetzer, Danielle Nastal, Diana Watson, Devlon Cowart, Rick Marboe, Paul Owens

FOOD... Ferguson Township Lions Club, State College Lions Club, Walker Township BSA Troop 52, Dave Wasson

MUSIC... Kristen Saacke Blunk, Stacy Glen, Mark Gahegan & Dave Dibiase, Steve Buckalew Bluegrass Band

MISCELLANEOUS... Max Gill, Allison Kuchta, Jeff Sturniolo, Chris Shannon, Harry George, Don Watson, Barbara Fisher, Chris Shuey, Phil Gipe, Molly Hetrick, Ron Woodhead, Greg Roth, Shana Tritsch, Holly Fritchman, the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center Advisory Committee, the many Boardwalk Donors, and the Centre Region COG

| want to invest...

ClearWater Conservancy Membership

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

Individual/Family	Business/Organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Member \$1,700	<input type="checkbox"/> Visionary \$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Leader \$1,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Patron \$750
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$200
	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100

A Life Membership option is also available. Call to find out more.

Name/Company: _____

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Contact person: _____

Payment: Check (made payable to ClearWater Conservancy)
 MasterCard Visa

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Signature: _____

Contributions may also be made to the **Donald W. Hamer Land Conservation Fund**. Contributions to the fund honor this past president's conservation vision and are used solely to support the ClearWater Conservancy's land trust activities.

The **ClearWater Conservancy Fund of the Centre County Community Foundation** is another available avenue to support our conservation mission.

By contributing to ClearWater's endowment, donors make a lasting difference for Centre County's environment.

Visit www.centrecountyccf.org for more information.



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ClearWater Conservancy is seeking sponsors to underwrite the cost of publishing and mailing *ClearWater News* to our members.

A \$1,500 sponsorship underwrites one of the quarterly newsletters in 2004 and showcases your message in this location.

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Winter 2003

New!! Quarterly publication schedule...

Fall - August 15
Winter - November 15
Spring - February 15
Summer - May 15

For the Love of Art & Chocolate
Friday January 23, 2004
7 - 10 pm, Penn Stater Hotel

\$25

Beautiful artwork inspired by nature, live entertainment by Jazza-Ma-Phone, salsa dancing, wandering musicians... and all the chocolate you care to eat!



Join ClearWater for a festive evening, bid on a painting in the silent auction, and know that your contributions support conservation of special landscapes and our water resources in the heart of Pennsylvania.

For a sneak-peek of the artwork, visit our Exhibition at the Art Alliance in Lemont on Sunday, January 18 from 1 - 4 pm.

Thanks to Major Corporate Sponsors Mitotyping Technologies and The Richards Group of Kissinger Bigatel & Brower Realtors!