



Golfing Greener

Riparian Restoration at the State College Elks Club

By Anne Marie Toccket
ClearWater Conservancy Intern

For some conservationists, the words “golf course” may immediately elicit a rolling of the eyes. And with good cause; golf courses have had a somewhat notorious reputation for their negative effects on water quality and wildlife. But as Dave Williams, superintendent of the Elks Country Club golf course in Boalsburg would have you know, this isn’t always the case.

“One bad apple spoils the bunch,” says Williams. “Not all golf courses have a detrimental effect on the environment.” And Williams should know. His golf course, for one, is working to improve and protect the natural resources around it.

Following a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection report in 2001 stating that parts of Spring Creek, which runs through the Elks course, were impaired, or not supporting aquatic life as they should, the ClearWater Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania helped the Spring Creek Watershed Community publish a special edition of their “*Springs & Sinks*” newsletter, detailing the damages.



Spring Creek crosses the State College Elks Country Club golf course parallel to Route 322 east of Boalsburg. Including a small tributary, ClearWater is helping to restore approximately 3,000 feet of this impaired stretch of stream as part of our Riparian Conservation Program.

Williams came across a copy of the newsletter and became concerned. Though the risk that the Elks Club itself posed was not explicitly known, Williams recognized that there was certainly room for improvement. “I didn’t know where to start,” he said. “I needed help figuring out what role the Elks could play in improving the watershed.”

He decided to place a call to ClearWater Conservancy. A partnership quickly developed and with the help of Katie Ombalski, the Conservancy’s Conservation Biologist,

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service soon became part of the effort to improve the Elks Club’s stretch of Spring Creek.

“We’re hoping to foster a healthier marriage between this recreational activity and the environment. The two can peacefully coexist,” says Ombalski.

The first step, in some cases, was to simply stop mowing. Williams has created several “no mow,” or out-of-play areas where instead of neat, carefully manicured lawn, natural

Mark Your Calendar for these Great Events!

Monthly Meetings

ClearWater Development Committee
2nd Monday, 4:30 – 6 pm

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

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

Spring Creek Watershed Commission
4th Tuesday, 7:30 pm

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

Special Opportunities

August 22, 6 pm

Adventures in Conservation program:
Forest Ecology Walk at Allan Seeger
Natural Area.

August 29, noon – dinner

Otto's 2nd Annual Golf-fest, now
benefitting ClearWater Conservancy!

State College Elks Country Club.
Spend a day on the links, win great
prizes, learn about ClearWater's
riparian restoration efforts at the Elks,
and of course, enjoy some great Otto's
brew. The cost per golfer is \$90 and
includes greens fee with cart, Otto's
brew, lunch, a gift pack, prizes, dinner
at the Elks & more. Register online at
[http://www.ottospubandbrewery.com/
05RegistrationForm.htm](http://www.ottospubandbrewery.com/05RegistrationForm.htm)

September 8, 6 pm

Adventures in Conservation program:
Bat Presentation & Tour, Canoe Creek
State Park. Meet at the ClearWater
office at 6 pm to carpool.

September 9

Deadline for Fall 2005 round of Con-
nections Scholarships for student field trips
to Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

September 18, noon – 5 pm

ClearWater's Spring Creek Day Family
Festival, hosted by Centre Region
Parks & Recreation at Millbrook Marsh
Nature Center, 614 Puddintown Road,
State College. A 25th Anniversary event
with fun for all ages: chicken barbeque,

kid's games and activities, nature
walks, art exhibit, demonstrations, and
music. Bring a picnic blanket and
some lawn chairs, meet old friends and
new, and enjoy the great outdoors.

September 29, 6 – 9 pm

Susquehanna River Basin Commission
Streamside Cleanup Workshop, Best
Western, Lock Haven. Learn more at
www.srbc.net/sc-training.htm. Help
prepare for our 2006 Watershed
Cleanup Day on April 22!

October 5, 7 – 9 pm

Making Choices: Water Resources
and Our Community's Future, a public
forum sponsored by the Spring Creek
Watershed Commission, Mount Nittany
Middle School.

November 15, 5:30 – 9 pm

ClearWater's Annual Membership
Meeting and Dinner, State College Elks
Country Club. Featuring a silent
auction, social hour, dinner, election of
Board of Directors, volunteer recogni-
tion, and a special presentation.

January 27, 2006

For the Love of Art & Chocolate.

THANK YOU

ClearWater's volunteer gardeners for
keeping our native landscape demonstra-
tion project weeded and watered during
the hot, dry summer: **Molly Sturniolo,**
Bryce Boyer, Alex Vandenbergh, and
Jessica Peterson. Thanks also to **Joe**
Banks, John Oleksa, Larry Kuhns,
Johanna Gould, Blackhawk Homestead
Nursery, and **Black Bear Nursery** for
responding to our call for native plant
donations.

Denny Hameister and **Blanche Shuman**
for donating frames and garden tools.

Our volunteer receptionists: **Art &**
Eleanor Tyson, Jessica Peterson, Alex
Vandenbergh, and **Bridget Stemberger.**

The **Centre County Community Founda-**
tion for subsidizing ClearWater's
GrantStation membership.

THANK YOU

25th Anniversary Celebration committee,
participants, sponsors, and volunteers:
Omega Bank, Barbara & John Fisher,
Ellie Beaver, Carolyn & Elwood Hatley,
Judy Kelly, Anne Marie Toccket, Kelleann
Foster, Lyn Pipenberg, Peter George,
Orris Morrison, John & Jane Ziegler, All
Seasons Catering, Altrusa International
of Centre County, Galaxy Sound and
Communications, Mount Nittany Middle
School, Tom Chapin & Michael Mark,
The Cat's Meow, Robert M. Sides Family
Music Center, Giant, Weis, Bellefonte
BiLo, and Balfurds.

The **Centre County Commissioners,** the
PA Senate, and the **PA House of Represen-**
tatives for honoring ClearWater with
proclamations for our 25th Anniversary.

Ottos's Golf-fest planning committee: **Joe**
Bishop, Ford Stryker, Derek Duffee, Steve

THANK YOU

McKenna, Matt Genchur, and **Andy Cole.**

Kitty Patterson and **Dan Rowland** of
Graphics & Design for revamping our
ClearWater logo.

Holly Fritchman for allowing the use of
one of her beautiful wetland drawings for a
new ClearWater thank you card.

Our excellent summer PR interns, **Anne**
Marie Toccket and **Larry O'Donnell** for
jobs well done. Also to our summer
Conservation Technician, **Jesse Yonkovich**
for excellent work on the Water Resources
Monitoring & Riparian projects.

Stacie Bird for her photography skills.

Robert Altamura for compiling DVDs of
the I-99 Acid Rock Drainage conference,
now available for loan at ClearWater.

A Note from your President

Central Pennsylvania is going to grow. It is, in fact, projected to grow at a rapid pace. But if that growth is at the price of losing that which makes this area so attractive in the first place, if the value of it is deemed to outweigh the value of the natural and historic sites that surround us, we will regret that irrecoverable loss.

There are natural treasures and unique features that are worth preserving, and not just in isolation. Your ClearWater Conservancy will continue to work, through our land trust activities, to preserve key tracts of land, and to offer our professional resources to landowners. We will continue to improve riparian areas, study the impacts on the streams and groundwater, and work to preserve and improve the stream corridors.

Finally, through our outreach and education efforts we will educate and inform community leaders and the larger public about the issues affecting the natural resources of the area.

Building on the successes and the lessons learned over the last twenty-five years, we look forward to a key role, in collaboration with many others, in preserving and protecting the natural resources of this beautiful area we call home.



Golfing Greener (continued from page 1)

vegetation now grows freely. This allows a more biodiverse habitat to recreate itself in the buffer zones surrounding the creek.

“Some golfers don’t like it that way,” says Williams. “But some prefer it and recognize its value. It’s a matter of personal choice, but it’s what is right for this initiative.”

Another overdue measure was to place signs explicitly labeling Spring Creek at several cart crossings and on Elks Club Road. “We knew there was a problem when some members of the Elks Club referred to Spring Creek as “the ditch,” says Ombalski. Installing stream crossing signs on the course was an easy way to let people know that this is a resource that needs protection.

The next step was to develop a long-term plan to ensure that further actions

would be taken to conserve and restore the creek and its surrounding areas. ClearWater Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are currently developing a plan to restore Spring Creek’s riparian and stream habitats and to decrease the impact of the golf course on the stream. This plan also includes the restoration of a tributary that flows into Spring Creek on Elks’ property.

In addition to guidance from ClearWater and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Williams is ensuring that he will be able to maintain the property efficiently and in an environmentally sensitive way on his own for years to come.

Through Williams’ initiative, the Elks Club also will be certified as a Cooperative Sanctuary through Audubon International, which requires that the course operate with high standards in



Spring Creek signs now mark cart path crossings.

the following six categories: environmental planning, wildlife habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, water quality management, and outreach and education.

He plans for the Elks Club to be fully certified by the end of this summer and hopes that the program will help the club to continue to act as a good steward of the land. “The course will be more aesthetically pleasing for golfers, and we will be contributing to the revival of Spring Creek,” he says. “I really think this is a win-win situation.”

In Memory of Anthony J. Gerace, Jr., Esq.

July 27, 1949 – June 13, 2005

In his tenure as president of ClearWater Conservancy, Tony Gerace took on the complexity of the organization and thrust its concerns into the public eye. Few people are willing to assume the responsibility of dedicating a substantial portion of their professional life to affect a change in this world or to even begin to plant the seeds of change. Yet in Tony's life he gave his heart to his passion and dared to protect the environment.

Centre County and its environs are fortunate to have had this life-long fisherman in their midst—learning, understanding, and working with Pennsylvania's rivers and creeks and their benthic communities. He translated this knowledge, with the assistance of Trout Unlimited, by overseeing the temperature standards of Spring Creek, protecting the Spring Creek Watershed from future degradation.

His legacy is also exemplified through his work with ClearWater on the protection of the 2,400-acre Curtin Estate property. Tony persevered through several years of challenging negotiations that ultimately led to the transfer of this mountain land into the hands of the Pennsylvania State Game Commission.

We at ClearWater are proud to have been a part of Tony's life and to have benefitted from his passion, dedication, and leadership. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Lyn and the Gerace Family.

Memorial contributions have been designated by the family and may be made to ClearWater Conservancy, 2555 North Atherton Street, State College, PA 16803.

Submitted by friends of Tony Gerace

Do not stand by my grave and weep,
For I'm not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand fishes that flash through the streams;
I am the diamonds glinting on summer's dreams.
I am the sunlight dancing at the water's edge;
I am the hatches rising from the wetland's edge.

When you awake in the morning's hush,
I am the song of the woodland thrush.
I am the breath of dawn's twinkling dew,
On autumn leaves fallen anew.
So do not stand by my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.



Tony and Lyn Gerace, with Jennifer Watson and Genie Robine, staffing a ClearWater Conservancy booth in Talleyrand Park for the 1998 Big Spring Festival.

COME TO THE...
SPRING CREEK DAY FAMILY FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER
NOON - 5 PM

2004 State of the Water Resources Report Available

The Spring Creek Watershed Community's Water Resources Monitoring Project (WRMP) has released its 2004 State of the Water Resources Report. The report compares the water quality and quantity trends of 2004, a relatively wet year, to the drought years of 2000 and 2001. Other highlights of the report include a comparison between 2004's Hurricane Ivan and 1972's Hurricane Agnes, discussions about Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and the important functions of wetlands in the Spring Creek Watershed.

The 2004 State of the Water Resources Report and data collected by the WRMP are available to the public at no cost. For information on how to become involved with WRMP or to obtain a copy of the 2004 State of the Water Resources Report, visit www.springcreekwatershed.org or contact Becky Dunlap at (814) 237-0400.

THE SPRING CREEK WATERSHED SIMULATION MODEL



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

A numerical simulation model of the Spring Creek Watershed surface-water and ground-water flow systems is being developed by the U.S. Geological Survey. This project is funded by a Growing Greener grant and by the U.S. Geological Survey. The role of the ClearWater Conservancy is to coordinate the volunteer work of local technical experts to define recharge areas and stream swallets and to present the information to the U.S. Geological Survey. On June 15, three U.S. Geological Survey experts in surface water and ground water simulation model development were taken on an all-day field trip throughout the watershed to show them unique areas such as the Scotia Barrens and the Big Spring. Local hydrogeologists and engineers Todd Giddings, Larry Fennessey, and Jay Lynch offered insights about the surface and ground water interactions in our complex geological setting.

The model will have the present land uses as its surface layer so that "what-if?" scenarios, such as expanding the Centre Region Growth Boundary, can be simulated to find out what the impacts will be on stream flow and on ground-water recharge. We are currently pumping more than 16 million gallons of ground water from our watershed's aquifers each day, so we need to know what the water resource impacts will be from the impervious land surfaces of future growth areas. We will also be able to simulate remedial measures, such as retrofitted storm-water infiltration basins, to determine the benefits to both recharge and stream flow.



Jennifer Shuey
Tour participants at Bellefonte's Big Spring.



Jennifer Shuey
Todd describes the watershed divide between Spring Creek and Spruce Creek from Jo Hays Vista on Tussey Mountain.



Todd Giddings
The group surveys a swallet at the base of Tussey Mountain where a surface stream disappears into the groundwater aquifer.

ClearWater Newsbriefs...

CONSERVATION NEWS CLIPS

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association has a new feature on their website, www.conserveland.org. News Clips, refreshed every weekday, is a collection of news stories and press releases gathered from local Pennsylvania and major national newspapers, and dedicated solely to conservation issues. Check it out to stay informed on conservation news that matters to you.

CLEARWATER RECOGNIZED BY LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS

On July 9, at ClearWater Conservancy's silver anniversary celebration, Representative Lynn B. Herman presented Executive Director, Jennifer Shuey and President, Dan Crust with a Citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in honor of the group's 25 years of natural resource conservation and restoration in central Pennsylvania.

A congratulatory Senate Citation was also received from Senator Jake Corman, and a Proclamation was presented to ClearWater by the Centre County Commissioners.



OTTO'S GOLF-FEST

Time is running out to sign up for this year's Otto's Golf-fest, on Monday, August 29 at the State College Elks Country Club. Please call Jennifer at 237-0400 to find out if there are still slots available.

ClearWater gratefully acknowledges Otto's Pub and Brewery for choosing ClearWater and our natural resource conservation mission as the recipient of their second annual Golf-fest proceeds. A complete list of sponsors and volunteers will be recognized in the next issue of *ClearWater News*.

PAYPAL ACCEPTED HERE

We are pleased to announce that ClearWater is now set up to accept donations by credit card over the internet through PayPal. Thanks to website intern Larry O'Donnell for making this possible.

25TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP GOAL PROGRESS

Our generous matching campaign benefactors, Barbara Palmer and Dayton & Sheri Coles are quite pleased with the progress ClearWater has made so far in leveraging their pledges. In fact, we passed the first year's \$10,000 match for new and

increased membership dues in April and are now working on the second year of matching money! Their dedication to increasing the foundation of our annual support has been a true blessing.

One loyal donor was so inspired by the matching campaign, he increased his membership from \$50 to \$1,100!

STEMBERGER CONSERVATION EASEMENT IN PROGRESS

At its June meeting, the ClearWater Conservancy Board of Directors agreed to proceed with the development of a conservation agreement with Bridget Stemberger on her 91-acre property on Sinking Creek in Potter Township along Route 322 adjacent to the SPCA building.

More than half of the property falls in the Centre County Natural Heritage Inventory's "Sinking Creek Wetland #2 Biological Diversity Area". A conservation easement would permanently protect both banks of Sinking Creek for approximately 2/3 mile, the riparian forest wetland, and an extensive emergent wet meadow.

The current recreational uses such as hunting and fishing would continue under the easement.

Kathy Gipe, a volunteer with ClearWater's Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee is leading this project and is currently working with the landowner to gather baseline documentation of the natural resource values of the property and to negotiate the terms of the easement to protect those values.

BIG GRANT NEWS

Since the last newsletter, ClearWater has received the following grant awards for special projects arising from our *Spring Creek Rivers Con-*



Katie Ombalski



Jennifer Shuey

The back of our office before the removal of asphalt and the planting of a rain garden in 2003 contrasted with a similar view today.

servation Plan. Thank you to all for your confidence and support!

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, **\$606,000** towards the purchase of Musser Gap, located on Tussey Mountain in Ferguson Township.

Huplits Wildlife Grant administered by the Sierra Club, Allegheny Group, **\$18,500** to further develop the Musser Gap project and raise the remaining funding for its purchase.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, **\$100,000** Legacy Grant towards the removal of the McCoy-Linn Dam between Bellefonte and Milesburg.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, **\$20,000** for wetland restoration following the removal of McCoy-Linn Dam.

STREAM NAMING

As part of the Riparian Conservation Project, Katie has had the opportunity to work with several property owners to officially name currently “unnamed” tributaries of Spring Creek. Working with Jackie Melander of the Centre County Historical Society, Katie consulted old maps for ideas relating to the historical context of the streams. With a name comes respect for the resource and an understanding of the need for its protection, our ultimate educational goal.

LANDSCAPING FOR URBAN WILDLIFE HABITAT

A picture is worth a thousand words, as I’m sure you’ll see with the above before and after photos from our office building. Our Conservation Techniques for Watershed-Wise Backyards and Businesses project was in full bloom this season, attracting more birds and butterflies to our urban location at the intersection of Valley Vista Drive and North Atherton Street.

Birds visiting our gardens include gray catbird, American goldfinch, ruby-throated hummingbird, northern cardinal, yellow warblers, red-eyed vireos, song and chipping sparrows, and American robin. We have also seen a variety of butterflies. Each year the diversity of species using the demonstration gardens is increasing as the native plants mature.

Two educational interpretive panels are scheduled to be installed in the gardens this fall through a grant from the Western PA Watershed Program. The panels will describe both the native landscaping techniques and the stormwater management options we used to lessen our ecological footprint on the site of our office building. These techniques can be replicated by any homeowner or business in town. The text of these educational panels can be found on page 10.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE REMOVAL

In August, ClearWater launched a pilot

project in the Cedar Run Watershed to eradicate invasive purple loosestrife from the stream banks and wetlands of Cedar Run. After a few unsuccessful attempts last year to remove the plants by hand, which led to destabilization of the stream banks, we are working with a certified pesticide applicator, to spray the purple loosestrife with a water-safe herbicide.

INSECT OUTREACH

You have probably noticed from the newsletter that our Conservation Biologist, Katie Ombalski is a birder, but did you know that Water Monitoring Coordinator, Becky Dunlap is also our resident bug expert? With the Spring Creek Day Family Festival quickly approaching, Becky has been excitedly coming up with all kinds of great kid’s activities involving insects.

To help kick off some new insect-related outreach, Becky would like to add the following to our wish list: a 10 gallon aquarium with lid, wood shavings, dry dog or cat food, insect collections from past school projects, and entomology supplies (pins, reference guides, forceps, etc.).

ClearWater will also be partnering with the Frost Museum and the PSU Department of Entomology on some outreach associated with the George and Alice Beatty Odonata (dragonfly) Collection. More details will be coming soon.

Honoring our History, Dreaming our Future: ClearWater's 25th Anniversary Celebration

By Anne Marie Toccet
ClearWater Intern

On July 9, after months of phone calls, committee meetings, invitation mailings and ticket reservations, ClearWater Conservancy's 25th anniversary celebration became a reality.

The tables were set, name cards, confetti and silverware in place, and Tom Chapin was on the way—now all that was left was to have a good time and enjoy the fruits of many labors.

“Everything really just fell into its right place,” said committee member Carolyn Hatley. “I can’t get over how smoothly everything went.”

The fact that the party went off without a hitch was due in part to something of a dream team of committee members—Carolyn Hatley, Barbara Fisher, Jennifer Shuey, Ellie Beaver and Judy Kelly worked long and hard for months beforehand, perfecting every detail.



John Fisher

As was evident on that sunny Saturday afternoon, their hard work did not go unappreciated.

If you weren't able to attend, the event was held at Mt. Nittany Middle School and included a catered lunch by Pat Donaghy of All Seasons Catering with an “all-American barbecue” theme. The program included highlights of ClearWater's past accomplishments and a look to the future of the organization, as well as a tribute to John Ziegler, a past president of the organization.

At Ziegler's request, folk singer Tom Chapin performed a concert following the luncheon and program.

“I think it was clear that John was just tickled,” said ClearWater president Dan Crust. “The music, food, program—everything was just great.”

As it turns out John was, in fact, tickled.

“I really couldn't have asked for anything nicer,” he said with a twinkle in his eye. “I've tried, but I couldn't find a fault with the whole thing. I enjoyed every minute of it.”

Ziegler says for him, the Chapin performance was a special touch. “I looked around and saw old people and young people, and everyone enjoying the performance,” he said. “Tom even said he'd like to come back.”



For others, just being in the company of Ziegler was enough.

“I've known John a long time, and it felt great to be there on his special day,” says long-time friend and ClearWater volunteer, Bridget Stemmerger. “I liked seeing John and other old friends at the program.”

This bringing together of old and new friends marked ClearWater's 25th birthday, and thanks to many volunteers and participants was an enormous success. In the words of an exhausted but satisfied Carolyn Hatley—“Let's do this again!”

Rhoneymeade Rendezvous

A Farm, A Sculpture Garden, & An Arboretum

By Anne Marie Toccket

ClearWater Conservancy Intern

It started small. But before Dr. Richard Morgan, a retired Penn State molecular biology professor knew what was happening, he had one of the area's best-kept secrets on his hands.

"Conserving this land and developing an arboretum and sculpture garden have really been efforts of many hands," says Morgan of Rhoneymeade, his 150-acre farm. Rhoneymeade is an intimate garden where a blossoming arboretum nurtures a variety of sculpture. This unique haven for nature and art lovers, tucked away just off of Route 45 East in Potter Township is open to the public the first Sunday of each month from April through October, to provide a glimpse into Dr. Morgan's peaceful haven.

Along the tree-lined boundary of the property stands Dr. Morgan's home, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its history is one worth noting—Leonard Rhone, best known locally as the founder of the Grange Fair, built the house in 1853. The land itself has been passed down through only a few families since being owned by William Penn.

Beginning at the home and neighboring artists' studio, visitors follow a gently sloping path around the Sculpture Garden, with works by local artists as well as Dr. Morgan himself. The route is designed with tranquility in mind, and the strategically placed gazebos, benches, and goldfish ponds invite the visitor to sit down and quietly observe the surrounding natural beauty.

Interspersed with the Sculpture Garden is the newly designed Tree Walk, which guides visitors to some of the oldest and most historic trees not only of the property, but of Centre County as well. Dr. Morgan speaks easily about each tree on the walk—but some of their histories remain a mystery.

"For all I know, this tree was planted by Leonard himself," comments Dr. Morgan, referring to one of the oldest of the 28 trees on the trail. At the end of the route stands the centerpiece of the group—a towering, imposing Norway maple—named the largest of its kind in the area by the Centre County Historical Society.

Along the walk through the Sculpture Garden and Tree Walk, there are ample opportunities to stop and take in the sights, sounds, and smells of this beautiful land. As far as the eye can see on this hazy summer day, brown and green hills stretch and intersect, punctuated only by cornfields, hedgerows, and the shimmering outlines of Mount Nittany and Tussey Ridge in the distance.

"Nobody will ever build on this land," Dr. Morgan states quietly, looking over his property with pride. The easement, which legally prohibits any kind of development on 144 acres of the farm—the remaining six acres were intentionally excluded to allow growth of the Sculpture Garden, Tree Walk, and future projects—was signed into effect on October, 30 1986, just two years after Dr. Morgan acquired the land.

This marked the first easement deeded to ClearWater Conservancy, founded in 1980. "We couldn't have chosen a more appropriate property for our first conservation easement," said then conservancy president, George Beatty at the time.

Today the value of this conservation easement is even more apparent, as development spreads out from State College along the Penns Valley. Dr. Morgan's farm is surrounded on all sides by development—new homes, businesses, and highways—but thanks to his commitment to conservation, this small stretch of land will never feel the rumble of construction equipment, probing for the best place to build a home or install a new pipe line. Instead, it will remain forever in its natural, scenic, and open condition—it will never grow houses on its soil.



Anne Marie Toccket

Mount Nittany beckons in the distance, rising above preserved farm fields and protected hedgerows. Rhoneymeade continues to be leased to the Rimmey family, who have farmed the land for three generations.

Conservation Techniques for Watershed-Wise Backyards and Businesses (Interpretive Panel Text)

CREATE YOUR OWN BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT!

Habitat loss to development is one of the greatest threats to biodiversity. Native plant communities are quickly replaced with manicured lawns and ornamental flowers, shrubs, and trees that have little or no value to wildlife. As more and more habitat is lost, the diversity of wildlife is increasingly threatened.

FOOD, WATER, AND SHELTER

Converting even part of a lawn into a natural landscape can turn your yard into a wildlife haven! Bird baths, ponds, bat boxes, and rock piles can be creatively placed around a yard to offer wildlife water and shelter. Landscaping with vibrant native flowers will attract birds and butterflies to your gardens. By using a diversity of shrubs and trees with different fruits and seeds, you will provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife species

throughout the seasons.

NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Native plants are naturally occurring species that have not been introduced from other areas by people. Native plants have evolved to survive in different habitats, and many species of wildlife are specially adapted to use native plants for food, cover, and nesting. To protect the diversity of wildlife, it is important to maintain natural habitats and their associated natural plant communities.

Landscaping with native plants attracts wildlife, promotes plant and animal diversity, and helps reduce the spread of non-native invasive species. With new construction, consider conserving undisturbed natural areas and using native plants in your landscape plan. At an existing home or office, add

native plants to your gardens or convert part of your lawn into a wildflower meadow.

LAWN ALTERNATIVES

Imagine how many acres of wildlife habitat are replaced by lawns in just one residential development or business park. Lawns replace natural wildlife habitat with non-native species, have little wildlife value, and require hours of weekly maintenance and costly fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

You can easily convert a lawn into a wildflower meadow or woodland garden to provide habitat for many species of wildlife. These attractive lawn alternatives also promote plant diversity, reduce chemical use, and significantly reduce maintenance time and costs.

SIMPLE LANDSCAPING CHANGES: BIG CONSERVATION!

As our community grows, our water resources can be negatively impacted. Impervious surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops cannot absorb stormwater. Instead, large volumes of stormwater run over these surfaces, picking up pollutants. This polluted stormwater is then piped by storm sewers to the nearest detention basin or stream.

Homeowners and local businesses can minimize the impacts of development by using water conservation techniques such as rain gardens, rain barrels, and paving alternatives. These techniques allow stormwater runoff to recharge groundwater supplies, be

naturally filtered, and be re-used for irrigation.

RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are shallow depressions positioned to capture and filter stormwater runoff. ClearWater's rain garden at the rear of the building replaced nearly 1,800 ft² of pavement. This rain garden decreases stormwater runoff and the amount of pollutants reaching our local streams. A diversity of native water-tolerant species planted in the garden also provides valuable urban wildlife habitat.

RAIN BARRELS

These large, enclosed containers

collect rooftop runoff from a downspout that is directed into the barrel. This runoff can then be used to water plants as needed, decreasing the demand on our water supply and reducing the amount of stormwater leaving the property.

PAVING ALTERNATIVES

Impervious surfaces such as asphalt or concrete prevent rain from being absorbed into the ground. Alternatives to traditional paving, such as porous concrete or grass block, are appropriate for overflow parking and low-traffic areas. Using these alternative paving materials allows stormwater to soak into the soil, reducing stormwater runoff.

A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Hello Friends...

Boy, we have a jam-packed issue for you again this quarter. It's a testament to how busy we've been, as any of the staff and many of the volunteers will tell you! But it also reflects a new 25th Anniversary outreach initiative we've started, based on a model developed by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.

Called "Stories of Land, Water, & People", this new outreach project aims to capture some of the compelling stories behind our successful projects—our conservation easements and land transfers, our streamside restoration projects, our strategic partnerships, our conservation plans, our educational programs—and more importantly the people behind the projects, who have worked so hard to make this organization what it is today.

We debuted the first three Stories at our 25th Anniversary Celebration: *John Ziegler, A True Community Citizen*; *Rhoneymeade Rendezvous: A Farm, A Sculpture Garden, & An Arboretum*; and *A Love of the Land, The Elsa Lisle Story*. Our next Story is *Golfing Greener: Riparian Restoration at the State College Elks Club*, which will be used for educational outreach at the Otto's Golf-fest at the Elks course on August 29.

Each of these stories has been researched and written by ClearWater Intern Anne Marie Toccket, who really has a knack for storytelling. Two of the Stories and an additional piece that Anne Marie wrote about the 25th Anniversary Celebration are used in this newsletter, and all of the stories will be on our website soon.

Watch for the debut of more Stories of Land, Water, and People at the Spring Creek Day Family Festival on September 18. I have a great committee working on this event and adding many new family-oriented activities. Let's all just keep our fingers crossed for some good weather this year. I hope to see you all there!

Finally, I would like to end my note with a heartfelt thank you to one of our most exceptional volunteers. Bill Hilshey has been essentially staffing our all-volunteer Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee for the past several months, in between graduate school classes at Penn State in Forest Resources. Over his summer break from school, he really stepped up the pace, organizing all of our easement stewardship records, completing the baseline documentation for the Potter Farm and Elsa Lisle conservation easements, completing this year's easement monitoring at Millbrook Marsh, working on the land conservation section of the website, and leading another large easement on Bald Eagle Ridge that is currently in the works. All of us at ClearWater are grateful for Bill's dedication and that he has chosen us as the beneficiary of his time and his extensive talent.



Volunteer Needs

A volunteer or intern trained in GIS to make maps and organize data.

Someone to help transfer our existing photo archive into Adobe software and to help organize our new photographs.

Volunteers to lead children's activities for our 25th Anniversary Spring Creek Day Family Festival.

A handyman to put a new roof on the ClearWater office.

Wish List

high-quality binoculars
bird seed (black oil sunflower seed or niger seed)
frames & mats in a variety of sizes
tent canopies for outdoor events
empty toner cartridges to recycle
10 gallon aquarium with lid
wood shavings, dry dog or cat food
insect collections
entomology supplies (pins, reference guides, forceps, etc.)

OUR MISSION

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Crust, President
Christopher Finton, Vice President
Max Gill, Treasurer
Ford Stryker, Secretary

Jean Aron, Joe Bishop, Robert Donaldson, Walter Ebaugh, Barbara Fisher, Kelleann Foster, Howard Greenberg, Don Hamer, Bonnie Marshall, Brian McCullough, Patrick Morse, Marylu Murken, James M. Rayback, Tom Songer, Jeff Sturniolo, Dennis Zwigart

EX-OFFICOS

George Beatty*, Bob Carline, Tony Gerace*, Caren Gloffely, George Hildenbrandt, Jim McClure, Doug Wion, John Ziegler

STAFF

Jennifer Shuey
Executive Director
Brooks Parker
Office Manager
Katie Ombalski
Conservation Biologist
Becky Dunlap
Water Monitoring Project Coordinator
Jesse Yonkovich
Conservation Technician

LIFE MEMBERS

Joe Banks, George Beatty*, Kristen Saacke & Joel Blunk, Ron Buckalew, John & Joan Chernega, Jeff & Tish Derr, Walt & Michele Ebaugh, Robert & Jeannette Eberhart, John & Barbara Fisher, Bob & Lee Gruver, Don Hamer, Elizabeth & Henry Kirchner, Fred Kissinger, Fred Nicholas, Ray Noll Jr., Genie Robine, David & Margaret Rockenbeck, Roxanne & Andy Shiels, Bob & Louella Shipman*, Tom Smyth, Tom & Sara Songer, Kathy & Ty Taylor, Philip & Virginia Walker, Donald & Diana Watson, Paul & Darlene Weener, Jerry & Jane Wettstone, Denny & Karen Zwigart

*deceased

Fall 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
contactus@clearwaterconservancy.org

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STATE COLLEGE, PA
PERMIT NO. 239