



Watershed Cleanup Day 2005

Special thanks to all who helped make ClearWater Conservancy's 2005 cleanup of Centre County's watersheds a huge success!

Nearly **300** enthusiastic volunteers collected an amazing **410** tons of trash from over **40** sites in this year's watershed cleanup.

On April 23, 2005, ClearWater Conservancy held its 9th Annual Watershed Cleanup Day in Centre County. Although our goal was to beat the 96 tons of trash we disposed of in 2003, little did we know that we would so easily smash that past record with an unbelievable 410 tons!

Our overwhelming tonnage numbers came mainly from three large sinkhole dumpsites that we cleaned in Walker

Township, Spring Township, and Ferguson Township. These large cleanups embodied the spirit of cooperation of Watershed Cleanup Day – linking together groups of family volunteers, who would never have been able to remove and dispose of such huge quantities of old waste from their land on their own, with donated equipment and manpower that could get the job done.

Many times, these old sinkhole dumps have been sitting around idle for years, slowly leaching pollutants into the groundwater aquifer. Watershed Cleanup Day offers the community the chance to band together to fix this important problem.

Water is naturally purified as it passes slowly through soil. Where soil cover is thin, groundwater may not be filtered

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410 TONS!



Jennifer Shuey

Mark Your Calendar for these Great Events!

Monthly Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

Special Opportunities

June 10, 8 am – 6:30 pm

The Pennsylvania Ground Water Association's Summer Field Conference offers a full day of field demonstrations and exhibits at the new PGWA Well Demonstration Site at Rock Springs. Registration information is available at www.pgwa.org.

July 9, noon – 3:30 pm

Honoring our History, Dreaming our Future. To celebrate the past quarter century and look forward to the next, friends of ClearWater Conservancy will gather at Mount Nittany Middle School, 656 Brandywine Drive, State College, for an All-American Barbeque Luncheon and a Concert featuring "America's favorite family entertainer", Tom Chapin. See details on page 8.

July 27, 5 pm

DEP Central Penn Watershed Team meeting and annual summer picnic, Sieg Conference Center.

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 www.clearwaterconservancy.org/05RegistrationForm.htm

September 9

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

September 18, noon - 5 pm

ClearWater's Spring Creek Family Day, hosted by Centre Region Parks & Recreation at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, 614 Puddintown Road, State College. Another 25th Anniversary event with fun for all ages: chicken barbeque, kid's games and activities, nature walks, and music. Bring a picnic blanket and some lawn chairs, meet old friends and new, and enjoy the great outdoors.

Also watch for more Adventures in Conservation programs this summer. Plans are still underway, but details will go out by listserv as soon as they are available!

Topics currently in the works: a tour of the PSU Frost Entomological Museum and gathering at the Creamery, a trip to Canoe Creek State Park for bat-viewing, a raptors program with Shaver's Creek, and a presentation on the return of the Bald Eagle.

THANK YOU

To our newest Life Members... **Jerry & Jane Wettstone, Fred Kissinger, John & Joan Chernega, Kathy & Ty Taylor, and Jeff & Tish Derr.** These legacy gifts have been applied to ClearWater's Don Hamer Land Conservation Fund.

Ernie Bergman for donating an American Flag and several picture frames, **Diane Kerly** for donating a vacuum cleaner, **Jason Saltman** for donating a filing cabinet, and **Jennie Granger** for donating garden tools.

The Watershed Cleanup Day Event Planning Committee: **Ann Donovan, Merle Wertz, Don & Diana Watson, Bill Brusse, Paul Ruskin, Jim Ruth, Dave Ault, and Genie Robine.** Special thanks and congratulations for a job well done go to committee chairman, **Jeff Sturniolo!**

THANK YOU

Jim Savage of Penn State's Horticulture Department for donating native trees and **George Hildenbrandt** for donating native plants for the Riparian Program.

SPE Federal Credit Union for assisting again with the Alice Beatty Memorial Arbor Day Tree Planting. Special thanks to **Centre Region Parks & Rec** and the **Harris Twp. Parks & Rec Committee.**

George Hildenbrandt for leading our traditional Mother's Day Wildflower Walk and to **Ben Derstine** for taking photos.

To the many International Migratory Bird Day volunteers: **Mike Lanzone, Trish Miller, Margaret Brittingham, Greg Grove, Dave Kyler, Doug Wentzel, Nick Kerlin, Chad Kauffman, Sarah Pabian, Kevin Wentworth, Ron Rovanssek, Brad**

THANK YOU

Ross, Adam Rohnke, Matt Marshall, Bob Snyder, Eric Zimmerman, Chuck Widmann, Ron Summers, Ken Windell, Elwood & Carolyn Hatley, Pam Spayd, Jeff Keefer, Duane Diefenback, Mike Ondik, and Mark Banker.

Barbara Fisher, Judy Kelly, Ellie Beaver, Anne Marie Tocket, and Carolyn Hatley for planning the 25th Anniversary tribute to **John Ziegler.**

Master Gardeners **Molly Sturniolo, Suzanne Thompson, Jan Musser, and Susan Thompson** for "adopting" our bird & butterfly garden at the office.

Our great complement of summer interns and project volunteers: **Anne Marie Tocket, Larry O'Donnell, Bill Hilshey, Jack Williams, and Ben Derstine.**

A Note from your President

As we celebrate ClearWater's twenty-fifth anniversary, it would be impossible to adequately recognize all those who have sustained this organization over that time. But I would like to use this space to thank our membership, and to ask for your continued help and support. Some of you have been members from the beginning, and some of you have just joined us, but we all share a common cause in the protection and improvement of our natural resources here in central Pennsylvania.

I'd like to briefly highlight some of our recent activities. The acid rock conference we co-sponsored last year has borne fruit as the state agencies are now looking into better solutions for the I-99 excavations on Skytop. We have recently concluded two significant conservation easement agreements and are exploring more, held another successful Cleanup Day, and the Adventures in Conservation series has been very popular. All of these things were either conceived by or relied heavily on volunteers. In addition, the support for our membership campaign has been very gratifying. It is in this area that I would like to ask for your additional help.

By growing our membership base, we can engender not only the financial support, but the broad base of local interest and engagement to continue to advance our goals. If you know someone with an interest in conservation, whether as a sportsman, a hiker, a birder, or through some other activity, please tell them about us. Our staff or any number of our volunteer leaders would be happy to talk with them if they would like more information. A membership application is on our website at www.clearwaterconservancy.org.

Thank you for all that you do, and we look forward to another twenty-five years of working together.



Watershed Cleanup Day (continued from page 1)

sufficiently to remove surface contaminants. Surface water that enters a sinkhole passes directly into the groundwater reservoir without any filtration. In addition, contaminants that enter a sinkhole are carried away from the sinkhole at a very high rate of speed.

If you have a sinkhole on your land, be careful with fuels, fertilizer, chemicals, and waste material. Don't put anything in a sinkhole that you wouldn't want to have in your drinking water.

If your land has an old sinkhole dumpsite, and you would like it to be considered for a future Watershed Cleanup Day project, please call the ClearWater office at (814) 237-0400. Our general guidelines for selection include: sinkholes that have not been actively used for many years and/or that have been "inherited" by new owners, owners that make a financial and/or volunteer commitment to the cleanup, and projects that can attract



Jeff Sturniolo

additional outside funding.

Please check our website, www.clearwaterconservancy.org for the full list of Watershed Cleanup Day contributors and volunteers. Without their generous donations of time, money, equipment, and expertise, we would not accomplish nearly so much in such a short time.



Kim Payne

ADVENTURES IN CONSERVATION

Spring time was jam-packed with fun and educational activities for ClearWater Conservancy members and the public.

Enjoy this collection of photos, and try to join us this summer for an interesting topic. Adventures in Conservation program details will be available on our website and will be sent out via listserv as soon as they are available. If you have program ideas that you would like to see us offer, please contact the office at (814) 237-0400.



Katie Ombalski

EXPLORING THE VERNAL POOLS OF THE SCOTIA BARRENS

State Game Lands 176, locally referred to as the Scotia Barrens, is comprised of distinctive barrens and vernal pool habitats that host unique and significant wildlife species and natural communities. Hundreds of frogs and salamanders visit these vernal pools to breed and lay their eggs each spring. In April, ClearWater invited the public to explore the vernal pools of Scotia Barrens with Jim Julian from the Penn State Cooperative Wetland Center and see this natural phenomenon for themselves.

Jim Julian is a Ph.D. candidate in the Intercollege Graduate Program in Ecology at Penn State University, and has been conducting research for the U.S. Geological Survey on pond-breeding amphibians in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for the past four years.

MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER WALK

A record crowd of nearly fifty people ducked out of the spectacular sunshine into the dappled light of the forest at Rock, where ClearWater gets special permission each year from the Rockview State Correctional Institution to observe a rare community of native wildflowers that grow along the limestone cliffs at the upper end of the Spring Creek Canyon.

Tying together ClearWater and the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society, George Hildenbrandt did his usual excellent job leading the walk and identifying the wildflowers. Because of the growing popularity of this traditional event, we are seeking additional leaders for next year to help point out the wildflowers and answer questions. Please let us know if you would like to help!



Ben Derstine

ALICE AND GEORGE BEATTY MEMORIAL ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING



Each year on Arbor Day, ClearWater honors the memory of Alice Beatty, and this year, after his passing last spring, we also honored the memory of her husband George. Both were inspirational early leaders of ClearWater Conservancy.

Dedicated volunteers gathered at Fasick Park in Harris Township to plant ten native trees from Kuhn's Tree Farm along Spring Creek as part of ClearWater's Riparian Conservation Program. Pictured are Russell Brooks and Nancy Stover, from event sponsor SPE Federal Credit Union and Bob Donaldson, one of our most active volunteers.

Katie will be seeking additional tree planters and invasive species pullers this summer for other riparian projects. To volunteer for the Restoration Crew, call her at 237-0400.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

International Migratory Bird Day, organized by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. The event, which takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, encourages bird conservation and increases awareness of birds through hikes, bird watching, information about birds and migration, public events, and a variety of education programs.

Eight-five people joined ClearWater Conservancy at the Scotia Barrens for a guided bird tour, a field tour of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Ruffed Grouse Management area, and an assortment of family activities, including "bird bingo", bluebird box construction, computer bird identification, and an up-close look at bird specimens. Participants in the evening's festivities were treated to the sounds of American woodcocks and whippoorwills.

Our staff was exceptionally excited about this event and hopes to make it a new ClearWater annual tradition. By showcasing the birds in the Scotia Barrens, ClearWater also highlighted one of our area's unique habitats. Soon, ClearWater will be communicating with property owners adjacent to the Scotia Barrens to promote conservation of this important natural area.

International Migratory Bird Day was possible because of a great partnership between ClearWater, Ducks Unlimited, the Penn State School of Forest Resources, the PA Game Commission, Shaver's Creek, State College Bird Club, and the USGS Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. More information can be found at www.birdday.org.



Birds Sited by Bird Day Participants...

Pied-billed grebe; great blue and green herons; canada goose; mallard; wood duck; turkey vulture; ruffed grouse; American woodcock; spotted sandpiper; yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos; whippoorwill; ruby-throated hummingbird; belted kingfisher; yellow-shafted flicker; pileated, red-bellied, hairy, and downy woodpeckers; great crested and least flycatchers; tree and barn swallows; blue jay; common raven; American crow; black-capped chickadee; tufted titmouse; white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches; house wren; gray catbird; American robin; wood thrush; eastern bluebird; blue-gray gnatcatcher; cedar waxwing; red-eyed vireo; black-and-white, golden-winged, yellow, magnolia, yellow-rumped, blackburnian, chestnut-sided, hooded, and wilson's warblers; ovenbird; common yellowthroat; American redstart; red-winged blackbird; Baltimore oriole; common grackle; brown-headed cowbird; rose-breasted grosbeak; American goldfinch; eastern towhee; chipping, field, and song sparrows

ClearWater Newsbriefs...

TOM CHAPIN TO PERFORM AT 25TH ANNIVERSARY BASH

Adult albums and kids' albums, contemporary folk and pop, Tom Chapin's music spans styles and generations. For more than thirty years, Chapin has entertained, amused, and enlightened audiences of all ages with life-affirming original songs told in a sophisticated array of musical styles.

The New York Times calls Tom Chapin "one of the great personalities in contemporary folk music." His concerts and recordings are sparked by strong, intelligent songwriting with clear, engaging vocals and the intricate, melodic guitar work that has become his trademark.

Chapin's live performances engage the hearts, minds and imaginations of children and adults alike. Parents Magazine says, "Nobody today is

writing and performing better kids' songs than Tom Chapin... the Pied Piper of children's music."

ClearWater is excited to bring Tom Chapin to central Pennsylvania as a tribute to past ClearWater president and huge fan, John Ziegler, as part of ClearWater's 25th Anniversary Celebration on July 9. Event information, including ticket prices, can be found on page 8.

OTTO'S GOLF-FEST

Yes, it's going to be a great fundraiser for ClearWater, but this year's Otto's Golf-fest, on Monday, August 29 at the State College Elks Country Club, will also be the perfect opportunity for us to educate people about the importance of appropriate riparian buffer management and showcase a successful Riparian Conservation Program

partnership with the Elks.

Katie Ombalski, who coordinates ClearWater's Riparian Restoration Program, has been working with Dave Williams, the Elks Club Golf Course Superintendent on a restoration plan for the upper reach of Spring Creek that runs through the Elks Club. She has been helping them with stream restoration, water quality, invasive species removal, and wildlife habitat issues for the

past two years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also assisting with the restoration effort.

By the time of the Golf-fest, the Elks Club hope to have been certified as the region's first Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. More information can be found at www.audubonintl.org/programs/acss/golf.htm.

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.

There are only a few more hole sponsorship opportunities left at \$150 each, but many golf cart sponsorships available for \$10 each. The committee is also accepting donations of prizes and/or raffle items. And finally, we will need lots of volunteers the day of the event to make the Golf-fest a success. We already have about half of our slots filled. If you are interested, please contact Brooks at 237-0400.

MILLBROOK MARSH NATURE CENTER HONORED BY PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Jennifer Shuey and Molly Hetrick, Recreation Supervisor for Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, travelled to Pittsburgh on May 27 for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's 2005 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards. This Awards program recognizes and honors outstanding achievements of organizations, programs, and individuals in a wide range of environmental initiatives throughout the region.

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center was honored as one of three finalists in the category of Primary & Secondary Education. The other finalists included the Shaver's Creek Watershed Study



provided by Tom Chapin

and SCUBA Do.

ClearWater was pleased to nominate the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center for this prestigious honor not only for the outstanding array of primary and secondary educational programs that it provides for our community, but also because the whole effort to establish a regional nature center here in the heart of central Pennsylvania has been a truly inspirational example of leadership from a wide variety of community partners, including the Centre Region Council of Governments, ClearWater Conservancy, Penn State University, and a whole host of other actively involved stakeholders.

RECENT GRANT AWARDS

ClearWater Conservancy has received generous grants from the following foundations and agencies. Thank you to all for this important project support.

Centre County Community Foundation, \$5,000 for Connections field trips to Millbrook Marsh.

An anonymous foundation, \$4,500 for Connections field trips to Millbrook Marsh.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission, \$2,000 for Watershed Cleanup Day 2006.

Centre County Board of Commissioners and Central Pennsylvania Convention and Visitors Bureau, cultural, historical and recreational assets apportionment of the Centre County hotel room tax initiative, \$1,000 for Spring Creek Family Day promotion.

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant, \$4,220 to create a Coldwater Conservation Plan for Upper Spring Creek in Centre County. This is part of the larger Riparian Conservation Program and includes some funds for stream restoration work at the State College

Elks Club that will be done in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Trout Unlimited Embrace A Stream Grant, \$7,400 for storm-water monitoring on Slab Cabin Run and Thompson Run for the Spring Creek Watershed Community's Water Resources Monitoring Project.

CLEARWATER'S OFFICE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

Calling all gardeners! Want to learn more about native plants, wildlife gardening, and water-tolerant rain garden species? Volunteer to help us keep our watershed-wise demonstration project looking beautiful throughout the season. Several Master Gardeners are already helping out, but the more the merrier!

Educational interpretive panels should be installed in the gardens by fall. And to round out some of the planting beds, we could use a few donations of native plants, including bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*), blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), and cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*).

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Local artists submitted a wonderful array of photographs, oil paintings,



pastels, and mixed media works for ClearWater's 2006 Calendar Competition. The hard part was choosing from so many great entries!

Congratulations to the winning artists: Susan Nicholas Gephart, Harriet Swanson, Roxanne Nayden, Holly Fritchman, Sharon McCarthy, Rob Brooks, Lance Armstrong, Jennifer Shuey, Thomas B. King, Harry Holder, Elizabeth Pennock, Ben Derstine, Jack Williams, Stacie Bird, Michelle Montes, Ingrid Fowles, and Aurielle Chaplin.

ClearWater will officially unveil its 2006 calendar on Spring Creek Family Day on September 18 with a "gallery showing" of several of the original pieces in the barn. Calendars and sets of notecards based on the calendar art will be available for purchase for \$10 each to benefit ClearWater's conservation mission.

STAFF MILESTONE

Congratulations to Watershed Coordinator Katie Ombalski, who celebrated her fifth anniversary with ClearWater Conservancy on May 15! Katie is an exceptional member of the ClearWater team and passionately shares her knowledge of and dedication to natural resource conservation, especially in the field of wildlife biology, with our members and volunteers. Thanks for all that you do, Katie!

25TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERSHIP GOAL PROGRESS

We are making impressive strides forward with existing members giving at an increased giving level. However, we are behind our new member goal of 25 per month. Please help us spread the word by sharing our stories and successes with YOUR conservation-minded friends, neighbors, and colleagues!

ClearWater Conservancy

25th Anniversary Celebration

Honoring our History, Dreaming our Future

Saturday, July 9, 2005

Noon – 3:30 pm

Mount Nittany Middle School

656 Brandywine Drive, State College, PA 16801

To celebrate the past quarter century and look forward to the next, friends of ClearWater Conservancy will gather for a luncheon and concert with a special look at our history.

The celebration will honor a past ClearWater president and true community citizen, John Ziegler, who was instrumental in ushering ClearWater through a critical transition in the organization's evolution.

Special Guest

TOM CHAPIN

"America's favorite family entertainer, Tom Chapin is a gifted singer who charms audiences of all ages. His remarkable musicianship, great songwriting, and personal warmth shine through in his many award winning recordings and videos but particularly in his concerts, which are special experiences for young and old alike."

RSVP by June 28 at (814) 237-0400

Tickets for the All-American Barbeque Luncheon and Concert: noon

Adults: \$50

Children aged 3 – 12: \$12

Tickets for the Concert Only: 2 pm

Adults: \$20

Children aged 3 – 12: \$10

After June 28, concert tickets will be available for \$25 based on availability.

***For more information, call (814) 237-0400 or visit
www.clearwaterconservancy.org***

To learn more about Tom Chapin, please visit www.tomchapin.com.

We are hoping to sell as many concert tickets as possible to our ClearWater supporters and the general public, so please help us spread the word!

Our Endowment for the Future

ClearWater Conservancy is planning for the future.

Several years ago, we established the ClearWater Conservancy Fund at the Centre County Community Foundation. Our goal is to see our Fund grow, both through new contributions and through the sound investment management the Foundation provides, so that our Fund will be a significant source of support for us in the future.

It's easy to add a contribution to our endowment Fund, and anyone can do so at any time. Simply send your contribution payable to "CCCF, Inc." to the Centre County Community Foundation, P.O. Box 648, State College, PA 16804 and designate it for the ClearWater Conservancy Fund.

In addition to current contributions to our Fund, we encourage our friends to arrange a legacy gift to our endowment by making the appropriate estate plans. Those doing so can be listed as members of CCCF's Campbell Society. Joining the Campbell Society for ClearWater would be a wonderful way to mark our Silver Anniversary.

Please contact us at any time for more information about the ClearWater Conservancy Fund at CCCF. Or contact the Foundation directly at (814) 237-6229, or by email at info@centrecountycf.org.

Information, including instructions for on-line giving and about the Campbell Society can also be found on the web at www.centrecountycf.org.

White House proclaims June "Great Outdoors Month"

The president wants you—to get outside. The White House recently issued the proclamation to "...celebrate our Nation's natural heritage, reaffirm our commitment to conserve our environment, and recognize the many volunteers who help maintain our natural spaces." The proclamation goes on to read (in part):

Americans are blessed by our country's expansive landscapes, diverse wildlife, and beautiful public lands. Outdoor recreation provides an opportunity to enjoy the splendor of our Nation's remarkable natural treasures and reminds us of our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2005 as Great Outdoors Month. I call on all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities and to enjoy safe outdoor recreational activities.

Reprinted from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources RESOURCE newsletter

ClearWater Newsbriefs...

GOOD LUCK, BROOKS!

Brooks Parker, our one-of-a-kind Office Manager at ClearWater, has decided to pursue an MBA at Penn State this fall. Fortunately, he has agreed to a contract to continue managing our critical finance and membership database tasks while he is in school.

Even though we will miss having him around the office full-time, we are positive that this opportunity will be a good one for Brooks. We have been very impressed by his work skills, his dedication to important community causes, and his ability to get things done. Please join us in wishing him the best as he furthers his education and his career.

McCoy DAM REMOVAL

As part of the Riparian Restoration Program, Katie has been working with a large group of community stakeholders to facilitate discussions that will lead to the removal of McCoy Dam between Bellefonte and Milesburg. The in-stream and riparian restoration that results will also be a critical link in the Nittany and Bald Eagle Greenway that ties Spring Creek with Bald Eagle State Park downstream.

Project partners include: the PA Fish & Boat Commission, Centre County Planning Office, the Centre County and Bellefonte Historical Societies, Bellefonte, Mileburg, Boggs Township, Trout Unlimited, Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad, and the boating community.

Solid Wood or Plastic Lumber?

There is a place for both.

By **Beryl Healey**
Volunteer Contributor

Spring is here, and usually the first task of the season for the male of the species is to inspect outdoor decks and patio areas to check for winter weather damage. Spring also awakens the female's desire to clean out the nest and buy new furniture and home furnishings.

For those of us who recycle and do the small, everyday things that help to protect our environment, both of these tasks can present us with yet another opportunity to make the right choice and protect our surroundings.

What Price?

When we think about buying furniture we think about price, style, durability, and functionality. We may think about the content, "Are the cushions and fabrics easy to clean or do they require harsh chemicals? Are they flame retardant? Will the colors fade over time?"

But the last things we probably think about is, "What was the cost to the environment during the manufacturing process and what will happen to it when we dispose of it at the end of its useful life?"

Wood or Metal?

Many people are following the trends set by the nation's leading interior designers and are choosing traditional solid wood furniture rather than the metal and wrought iron pieces. Wrought iron and metal furniture uses ores and minerals found deep within the earth. And once these are used up, they are gone forever. During the

manufacturing process chemicals are added to these ores, and these processes cause toxic gasses and waste products that pollute water supplies and soil.

There are many other reasons for choosing wood, such as traditional good looks, exceptional value for the money, it's easy to live with and care for, it's versatile and functional, and it has a variety of styles, finishes, and textures. But one of the most important reasons for choosing solid wood furniture is that this material is probably the most environmentally friendly product you can buy for inside your home.

Which Wood?

Many species of trees that are used for domestic furniture manufacturing are replaceable. In fact, in the US 28% more trees are planted every year than are lost to harvesting, fires, and disease.

On the other hand, solid wood furniture is not always the best choice for outdoor areas. Patio and outdoor solid wood furniture is usually made from hardwoods such as cedar, oak and poplar. These trees do not grow as quickly as pine and consequently are not replenished as quickly.

Conservationists all over the world have expressed their concern about the uncontrolled harvesting of hardwood trees. Hardwood timber has usually been injected with chemicals to repel insects and has been pressure treated with more chemicals to provide weather protection. Despite this treatment, natural hardwood decks are still prone to insect attacks, rot, splitting, peeling, and warping and require constant maintenance to keep their

good looks and remain safe.

For outdoor decks and recreation areas, plastic lumber is a better choice. Many everyday items, from shampoo and detergent bottles to milk jugs are made from a plastic called HDPE (High-Density Poly Ethylene), because this plastic is very easy to recycle. Some plastic lumber is made entirely of recycled HDPE, while other types use a mix of HDPE with wood fibers, rubber, or fiberglass.

Benefits of Plastic Lumber

Because plastic lumber does not swell or contract under certain conditions, it tends to hold nails and screws better than wood. Plastic lumber works with any deck fastener, requires no sealing, is available in almost any color, and provides a good shock-absorbing surface for play areas, trails, and jogging paths.

Plastic lumber is far better suited for outdoor use, since it has an average lifetime of 50 years, is easy to paint if you so wish, has low maintenance cost, and does not bleed contaminants into the soil. Never having to replace a deck is a real financial benefit to homeowners, and the fact that the plastic lumber does not have to be regularly treated with pesticides and chemicals is a benefit to the environment.

Plastic lumber is a high quality product that is both an environmentally-friendly and an economically-viable alternative to traditional hardwood lumber. So, by using plastic lumber rather than natural hardwood in the outdoor areas of your home and choosing natural solid wood such as pine for your indoor furniture, you are making decisions that benefit both your pocket and your environment.

A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Hello Friends...

Everybody loves celebrations. And what better reason to celebrate than a Silver Anniversary? ClearWater was founded on July 7, 1980, and while the conservancy has certainly grown and evolved over the years, the core mission of the group has remained solidly rooted in the conservation of central Pennsylvania's natural resources.

One of my sincere joys at ClearWater has been working closely with the inspirational Barbara Fisher. First a few stats: Barbara was a founding member of the ClearWater Board of Directors; she served in the offices of secretary, vice-president, and president at various times over the years; she is the only Director who has been elected to the Board all twenty-five years; and she has led or persistently pushed for action on more issues, projects, and fundraisers than you can probably imagine.



But much more importantly in my opinion, Barbara embodies the qualities of a servant leader in the truest sense. She has committed her heart and soul to the success of this organization because of her unmistakable passion for the protection of our community's land and water resources. She plans and worries about the smallest details of many ClearWater events, delivers moving speeches to municipal officials, and will persistently track down every local expert in a quest to learn the technical side of a specific conservation or land use issue. But all the while, she pampers and praises those other volunteers and activists around her as she downplays her own contributions.

To kick off a great year of memories and tributes, let me offer my first thanks to my mentor and friend, Barbara Fisher. Your dedication has ensured that ClearWater will continue to be a strong voice for conservation for the next quarter century and beyond!

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers to help set up tables and decorate for the July 9 Anniversary Luncheon and to assist with registration for the Tom Chapin concert.

About 25 volunteers to help the day of the Otto's Golf-fest on August 29.

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

Volunteers to plan activities for our 25th Anniversary Spring Creek Family Day. Creativity a must!

New recruits for the 2005 Restoration Crew! Help plant trees, remove invasive species, and more.

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

We're Also Wishing For...

High-quality binoculars, Bird seed
Frames & mats in a variety of sizes

New or used garden tools
Tent canopies for outdoor events

Miracid Plant Food
Empty toner cartridges to recycle

REMEMBER...

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OUR MISSION

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

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Stan Crilly

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