



CLEARWATER *conservancy*

CLEARWATER NEWS WINTER 2007

Conservation Action Plan Complete; Several Projects Underway

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) created a “Conservation Blueprint for Pennsylvania” to help WPC and its partners prioritize future conservation initiatives. Using 25 years of data compiled by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program and other scientific institutions, the Blueprint identifies the most important areas in Pennsylvania and the adjacent region for protection, conservation, and restoration of land and water that supports native plants, animals, and important habitats. Nittany Valley is one of eight Priority Conservation Landscapes chosen for protection by WPC and its conservation partners.

Based on this designation, ClearWater Conservancy and WPC joined forces in 2006 to prioritize conservation initiatives for the Nittany Valley using a conservation tool developed by The Nature Conservancy called Conservation Action Planning, or CAP.

With assistance from a team of local experts, we identified “conservation

targets” that are critical to the conservation of biodiversity in the Nittany Valley. Knowing the targets, we then assessed current target health, identified factors that stress the targets, and sources of these stresses. Finally, we identified objectives and corresponding conservation strategies and actions that will alleviate the stresses and ultimately help to maintain target viability.

The results of the Nittany Valley CAP are now being used by ClearWater Conservancy and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to prioritize projects, allocate resources, and develop additional partnerships. Although we are just beginning to develop work plans, we have already started implementing several high-priority conservation strategies and actions.

(Both stories continued on page 4)

\$50,000 Pledge to Campaign for Conservation; Leadership Giving Circle Launched

In October, ClearWater Conservancy received another pace-setter pledge for the Campaign for Conservation. Long-time Board member and past-president, Don Hamer was impressed with the presentation of ClearWater’s new Conservation Action Plan—essentially our work plan for the next several years.

Charles Bier, from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Katie Ombalski, ClearWater’s Conserva-

tion Biologist walked the Board through the planning process that has been taking place over the past year for the Nittany Valley, the conservation targets—resources such as forested ridges, vernal pools, limestone streams, barrens ecosystems, large contiguous valley forests, subterranean ecosystems, and limestone cliffs and glades—that have been prioritized for conservation, the threats to these resources, and priority objectives, strategies, and

Mark Your Calendar!

Monthly Meetings

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

Spring Creek Watershed Community
Coordinating Committee
**3rd Tuesday, 7:30 – 9:30 am, Patton
Township Municipal Building**

ClearWater Land Conservation &
Stewardship Committee
4th Wednesday, 5:30 – 7 pm

Special Opportunities

December 27 – January 2
ClearWater Conservancy's For the
Love of Art & Chocolate preview
exhibits during First Night State
College. Watch for displays in the
windows of Moyer Jewelers, Appala-
chian Outdoors, Tadpole Crossing,
Penn State Downtown Theatre, and
Webster's Bookstore Cafe on Allen
Street.

**January 25, The Penn Stater (valet
parking available), 6:30 – 7:30 pm,
\$25**

Wine & Chocolate Pairing Lesson and
Tasting by Hersheys and Mount
Nittany Vineyard & Winery.

**January 25, The Penn Stater (valet
parking available), 7 – 10 pm, \$25**

For the Love of Art & Chocolate.
For a ticket price of just \$25, you'll
get an impressive assortment of
chocolate delicacies, the opportunity
to view and bid on a variety of art

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

August 1 - November 15, 2007

Tracy & Eugene Polmueller
Ziegler's Packing & Crating
George & Annie Lesieutre
Mark & Cynthia Dirsmith
Adam Glick & Jeanne Lumadue
Lee Hammerstrom
Ann Isenberg

Wish List

Forever postage stamps
10' x 10' "Easy-up" canopy
Empty inkjet cartridges to recycle
Large cooler
Silent auction/raffle donations
black oil sunflower seed
large bird feeder for whole
sunflower seeds
50 - 100' outdoor extension cord
grocery store or office supply store
gift cards

works inspired by nature, and the
chance to win some fabulous door
prizes. There will also be a live jazz
band, Jazza-Ma-Phone. All proceeds
benefit ClearWater Conservancy. To
purchase tickets in advance call
ClearWater Conservancy at (814) 237-
0400. Tickets may also be purchased
at the door, but advance ticket holders
can walk right in.

**Please visit our website at
www.clearwaterconservancy.org
for more details!**

THANK YOU

Rob & Becky Brooks, our newest
Life Members.

Ken Tamminga for a big bag of
Cardinal Flower seed and **Deb
Nardone** at PA Trout Unlimited for
donating 18 three-ring binders.

Our **United Way Day of Caring**
crew from Penn State Hospitality
Services for replacing half of our
roof (and signing up for the other half
in 2008!): **Smiley Burket, Mark
Reynolds, Eric Olbrich, Bonnie
Christine, Herbert Moller, Aaron
Knight, Park Lane, Matt Moore,
Tim Babcock, Scott Smith, and
Jim Purdum**. Also to **Lezzer
Lumber** for discounting the materi-

THANK YOU

als and to **Best Line Equipment** and
Veolia Environmental Services for
lending air nailers and a roll off box.

**Melinda Turner, Kathy Derge
Gipe, Gary Thornbloom, Harry
Henderson, Stan Kotala, Bob
Hazelton, Ted Trostle, and Jeff
Weaver** for organizing and leading
the Spring Creek Canyon Adventures
in Conservation hike on October 7.

Bonnie Hutchinson for making a
Musser Gap Commemorative Quilt.
This raffle raised over \$1,200!

**Steve Miller, Karla Thurston,
Ralph Mumma, Ken Reeves,
Andrew Karcich, Natalie Kovac,**

THANK YOU

and **Brynn Biddle** for promoting,
organizing, and leading the Hike Up
Mount Nittany Adventures in Conser-
vation hike on PSU Homecoming
Sunday.

Steve Maczuga for wintering the last
of our Growing Native white oaks for
planting in the spring.

**Mount Nittany Vineyard & Win-
ery** for the booth space at their
Harvest Festival in October.

**Karl & Iris Striedieck, Stan
Kotala, and Dan Crust** for organiz-
ing and leading the Eagle Field
Exploration Adventures in Conserva-
tion Program on October 28.

A Note from your President

Hello again, everyone. Thanks to Barbra Fisher and everyone who helped to make the Musser Gap celebration such a wonderful event! You can help ClearWater continue to advance the protection of such vital areas by donating to the Campaign for Conservation. Much time and resources are spent without any funding to pursue conservation opportunities such as Musser Gap. The funds raised by the Campaign for Conservation will allow us to continue and expand such efforts. If you have donated, thank you and consider increasing the amount you so kindly donated.

I also want to thank our Executive Director Jen Shuey for all her efforts to make the Spring Creek Day Family Festival a success. Thanks to all those who helped by volunteering their time to this event.

If you have driven between Bellefonte and Milesburg you will notice the effects of another successful ClearWater project—the removal of McCoy-Linn Dam and the start of restoration of that stretch of Spring Creek. The last phase of this project will conclude in the spring of 2008 with the installation of the riparian buffer plantings and access improvements.

As a tie in to the McCoy project, the featured speaker at the ClearWater Conservancy Annual Meeting on November 7 was Scott Carney with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. Scott is known as “the dam buster” for all the dam removal projects he has facilitated in the Commonwealth. He also shared several other successful partnerships that have developed between ClearWater and the Fish & Boat Commission.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stumm".

THANK YOU

Spring Creek Day Family Festival volunteers and donors: **Mike Bishop, Melinda Turner, Jesse Yonkovich, Harrison's, Giant, Weis, and Hoag's Catering.**

Barbara Fisher, Melinda Turner, Kelleann Foster, Ann Donovan, Genie Robine, Bob Eberhart, Steve Miller, the Ferguson Township Police, Matt Dallos, Jennifer Kane, Banjovial, Walt Ebaugh, Matt Keefer, Gary Peterson, and everyone who came out to celebrate Musser Gap on September 9!

Betty Kirchner for the donation of boots and rain gear.

THANK YOU

Our Annual Meeting silent auction donors: **Otto's Pub & Brewery, Honeybaked Ham Company, Mount Nittany Wheelworks, Max & Lenna Gill, Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra, Nancy Noll - The Queen Bed & Breakfast, Bonnie Hutchinson, Jennifer Shuey, Insect Creations, Sarah Edge, Tug Hollow Honey, Doug Scott, Judy Kelly, Cabela's, The Tavern, Tait Farm Foods, and Diana Watson.**

Mike Ondik and Bob Donaldson for leading the Scotia Barrens History and Ecology Adventures in Conservation Tour on November 4 and to **Sarah Edge** for organizing it.

THANK YOU

Tait Farm for their generous contribution of native plants for our restoration and demonstration projects.

Art Gover, Kevin Abbey, Frank Maguire, Joe Harding, and Jim Finley for joining the Musser Gap stewardship team.

The Baltimore Life Insurance Company for a grant for a new outdoor display banner.

The **Huplits Foundation** for a \$13,500 grant and the **Wild Resources Conservation Program** for a \$15,000 grant to support mapping of Barrens ecosystems.

(Conservation Action Plan and Projects... continued from page 1)

PROACTIVE LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Currently, our staff and Board are negotiating with several landowners to protect nearly 4,000 acres of high-priority habitats, which would more than double the amount of land we have protected through easements, acquisitions, and partnerships to date.

Successful negotiations with these landowners will significantly benefit many of the conservation targets including barrens plant communities, valley bottom mesic forests, several limestone streams, vernal pools, limestone cliffs, and a portion of a mountain ridge.

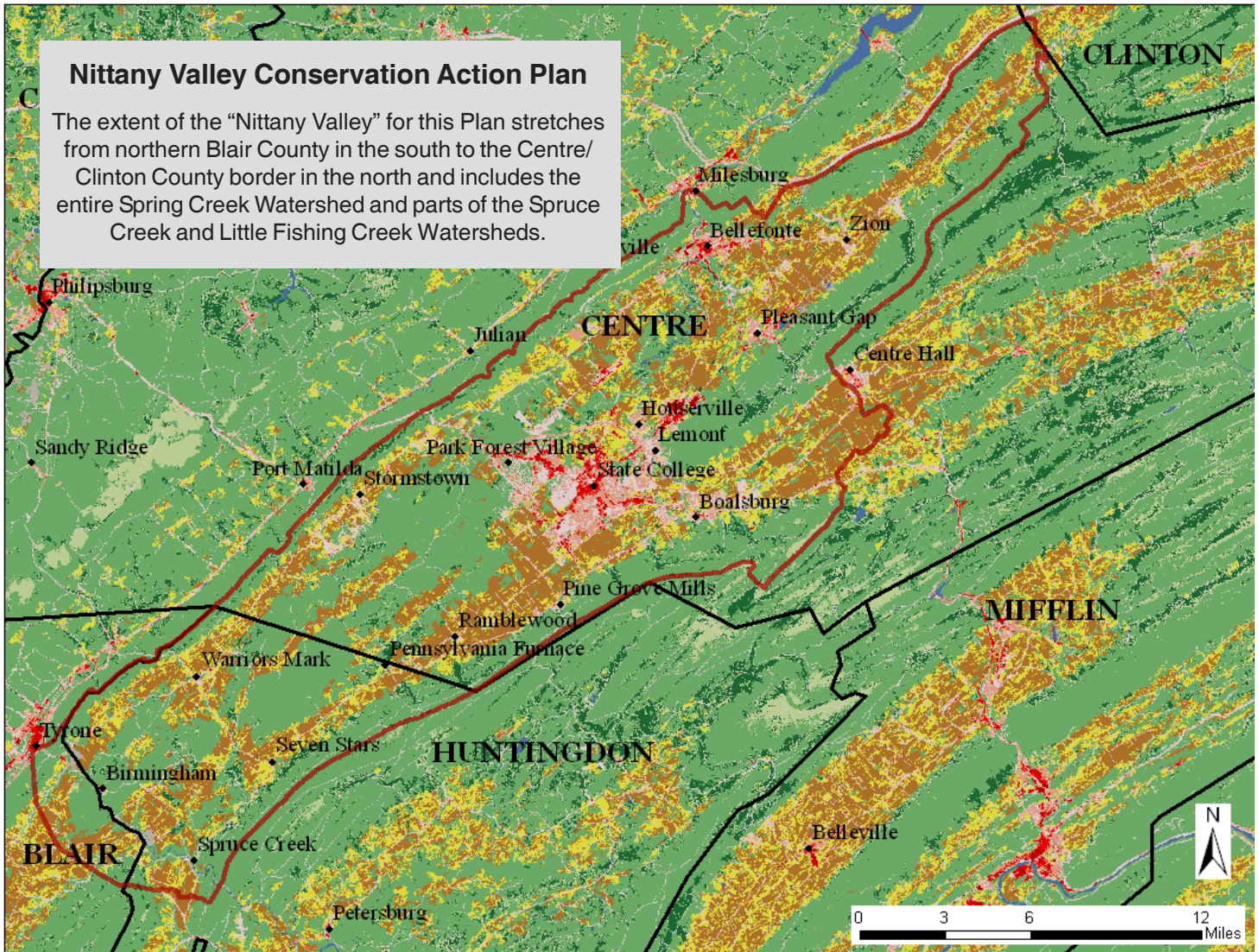
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BARRENS ASSESSMENT

Low elevation Scrub Oak Shrubland Barrens in central Pennsylvania are a naturally-occurring thicket/shrub habitat that support 15 rare, threatened, and endangered species and several of *Pennsylvania's Wildlife Action Plan* high-priority species.

The PA Game Commission currently protects 6,231 acres of this barrens type and buffering habitats in Centre County through ownership of State Game Lands 176. It is believed, however, that patches of this barrens type extend from Clinton to Bedford County.

It is our goal to conserve this imperiled habitat and barren-dependent species by defining the current and historic extent of this barrens habitat type and identifying high priority parcels of private and public land for conservation, restoration, and management.

ClearWater recently received a third of the necessary funds to begin this project through a grant from the Huplits Foundation (\$13,500) and the Wild Resources Conservation Program (\$15,000). Staff is currently trying to secure additional funding sources in order to launch this project.



Nittany Valley Conservation Targets

- 1) Limestone springs, streams, wetlands, and floodplains
- 2) Vernal pools
- 3) Mountain saddles and water gaps and streams
- 4) Barrens plant communities
- 5) Valley bottom mesic forests (contiguous and lower slopes)
- 6) Caves and karst
- 7) Limestone cliffs
- 8) Ridges (migrating routes) and talus slopes



Jennifer Shuey

State Representative Scott Conklin, Katie Ombalski, Max Gill from the State College Borough Water Authority, DCNR Secretary Michael DeBerardinis, Centre Region Council of Governments Chair Richard Killian, and ClearWater President Jeff Sturniolo celebrate the acquisition of Musser Gap by ClearWater Conservancy and the incorporation of Musser Gap into Rothrock State Forest in August. Mountain gaps like this one have been identified as one of ClearWater's Conservation Targets.

(\$50,000 Pledge... continued from page 1)

actions to address the threats and protect these important features of our central Pennsylvania landscape.

“This is exactly where we need to be right now,” Don commented during the meeting. To back up his statement, Don not only made a personal commitment, he also offered to assist with a few visits to other prospective supporters in the community.

“This Campaign for Conservation will provide the funding to allow ClearWater’s staff and volunteers to proactively develop conservation easement, land acquisition, habitat management, and restoration projects that will conserve the truly unique and critically important features of our area.”

In fact, in some instances, the organisms and habitats that will be protected are considered “globally significant”.

In typical fashion, Don has also decided to issue a challenge to other supporters of conservation in the Nittany Valley, a region that extends from Spruce Creek in the south to Little Fishing Creek in the north between the Bald Eagle and Tussey Ridges.

He is inviting others to consider donations or multi-year pledges totalling \$10,000 or more by the end of the year to join him in the newly created Leadership Giving Circle. Included in the Leadership Giving Circle at this time are Walt & Michele

Ebaugh and Gert & Jean Aron.

To join the Leadership Giving Circle or to give another gift to the Campaign for Conservation, contact Jennifer at (814) 237-0400 or jennifer@clearwaterconservancy.org to discuss the details. Or you may simply mail the check to ClearWater Conservancy in the envelope included with this newsletter.

The Campaign for Conservation committee will be happy to visit with donors who are interested in more details about the Conservation Action Plan and Campaign and share the variety of options for supporting natural resource conservation through the work of ClearWater Conservancy.

ClearWater Newsbriefs...

OTTO'S GOLF-FEST

This year's Otto's Golf-Fest was held on August 27 at the State College Elks Club and raised a record \$28,000 for ClearWater Conservancy! A big thank you to all of the golfers, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and of course the wonderful planning committee for making this great day possible! Please visit www.clearwaterconservancy.org/golf.htm for all the highlights.



I-99 ERPA TOUR

On August 14, ClearWater Conservancy and Patton Township representatives toured the I-99 Acid Rock Drainage Engineered Rock Placement Area (ERPA) site with PennDOT, DEP, and project consultants. The group got to see firsthand how the pyritic rocks are being mixed with baghouse lime from Graymont in Pleasant Gap. More details about the current status of the project can be found at www.depweb.state.pa.us.

Enter keywords "I-99 Information".



Todd Giddings

Tour participants marvelled at the scale of the Engineered Rock Placement Area.

SPRING CREEK HERITAGE AWARD

Bob Donaldson was presented with the Spring Creek Heritage Award by ClearWater Conservancy and the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited at this year's Spring Creek Day Family Festival at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Bob was honored for his life-long passion for protecting Spring Creek's natural and cultural heritage.



Todd Giddings
Jennifer Shuey and Bill Brusse, President of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, congratulate Bob Donaldson.

MCCOY-LINN DAM REMOVAL

Although the removal of McCoy Dam was officially completed on October 1, restoration efforts will begin next year after the newly constructed stream channel has become more stable. Spring activities include installing fish habitat enhancement structures, planting riparian buffers, and spraying invasive species, with a focus on Japanese knotweed.

The newly created public access area is still officially closed but will likely be opened by fall 2008. Regular project updates will be available on our website.



Scott Ca

The new stream channel where the McCoy-Linn Dam impoundment used to be. This section of Spring Creek between Bellefonte and Milesburg is closely flanked by Bald Eagle Ridge, a rail line, and Route 144.

NATURE CENTER CAMPAIGN REACHES \$1 MILLION MARK

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center recently reached a critical milestone in their building fund campaign to build a new four-season facility, the Spring Creek Education Building. The more than \$1 million in pledges so far from community donors, Centre Region municipalities, and Centre County government will be used to construct this new building, which includes classrooms, lab space, an office area, a gift shop, and restrooms. It is also hoped that this outstanding support from the community will encourage the release of the \$1.25 million for the center in the State Capital Budget, which now must be authorized by Governor Rendell.

Alternate designs are currently being prepared and reviewed, with a possible construction start date in 2008. The new facility, which will be LEED-certified, is anticipated to be complete for the spring 2009 field trip season. To contribute to this wonderful addition to our community and the continued education about watersheds, wetlands, and our natural resources visit www.mymillbrookmarsh.org.

RIPARIAN RESTORATION RESULTS

ClearWater Conservancy was recently awarded \$80,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to further our Riparian Conservation Program (RCP) initiatives in the Spring and Spruce Creek watersheds. RCP accomplishments to date include installation of 10,300 feet of stream bank fencing, nearly 18,000 feet of riparian buffer, and the creation of our own Growing Native chapter. Past and future riparian successes are a result of strong partnerships with the Centre County Conservation District, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

RAFFLE FOR A JENNIFER KANE OIL PAINTING OF MUSSER GAP

Famed local landscape artist, Jennifer Kane, has painted Musser Gap and donated her creation to ClearWater Conservancy to raffle in support of upcoming projects in the Land Conservation Program. Jennifer

began her painting at the Musser Gap celebration to infuse her work with the energy of those gathered in support of its protection.

Raffle tickets are available for \$10 each, and the winner will be drawn on January 25, 2008 at ClearWater's "For the Love of Art & Chocolate" event. View more of Jennifer's work at www.jenniferkaneart.com.

OUR NEWEST DIRECTOR

Joining Ford Stryker, Pat Morse, Jean Aron, and Mac Rayback, who were all elected to another 3-year term on the ClearWater Board of Directors, is Rebecca Dunlap. Not

long ago we said goodbye to Becky as a staff member, and we are pleased to now have her back as a Director.

Becky serves as the Project Manager for national Trout Unlimited's West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative. Her work focuses on the protection, reconnection, and restoration of the eastern brook trout and their watersheds. The majority of her efforts revolve around areas impacted from abandoned mine drainage. Prior to joining Trout Unlimited, Becky served as the Water Resources Coordinator for ClearWater Conservancy. Her work with ClearWater consisted primarily of managing the Spring Creek Watershed Community's successful Water Resources Monitoring Project. Becky holds a B.S. in Biology from Mansfield University and an M.S. in Biology from the University of North Texas.



Jennifer and her finished Musser Gap painting. Call 237-0400 for purchase options.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

ClearWater Conservancy is once again participating in the Alternative Christmas Fair taking place at University Baptist and Brethren Church. It will be held on Sunday, December 2, from 11 am to 2 pm in the basement of the church located at 411 S. Burrowes St., State College. The Fair provides an alternate means of giving during the holiday season.

Donations may be made to any of 20 local, national or international charities in honor of family and friends. Gift certificates inscribed in calligraphy are provided to inform the recipient of a donation made in his or her name, and may be customized for any holiday. Homemade soup, barbeque, and baked goods are also available.

Scenes from our
 Fall 2007 Adventures in Conservation Program Series
“Come for the Blue... Stay for the Green!”



Kid's Crafts and Water Rockets at the Spring Creek Day Family Festival at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.



View to the Appalachian Front from the Eagle Field fire tower.



Ralph Mumma, from the Mount Nittany Conservancy, shows a tree near the Mount Nittany trailhead that pre-dates the clearcutting of the mountain for charcoal.



Falconer friends of Karl Striedieck trap and show a goshawk at Eagle Field during the Adventures in Conservation tour.



Guests at the Musser Gap Celebration tour the newest addition to Rothrock State Forest.

Photos on this page courtesy of Jennifer Shuey.

Many Thanks to all of our Fall 2007 Adventures in Conservation Event Partners:

Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau, Penns Valley Conservation Association, Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, Centre Region Parks & Recreation, Sierra Club Moshannon Group, Juniata Valley Audubon Society, Centre County Historical Society, Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, PA Fish & Boat Commission, Mount Nittany Conservancy, Penn State Outings Club, Karl & Iris Striedieck, State College Bird Club, Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch, and PA Game Commission.

Ways to Give to ClearWater Conservancy

“A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children”.

~Audubon

With the end of the year fast approaching, this is a traditional time to both review your charitable contributions for tax planning purposes and to remember your favorite causes with an extra holiday gift. There are many ways to support ClearWater Conservancy...

ANNUAL SUPPORT

Your individual or family memberships are ClearWater Conservancy's solid base of local support. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please recommit now to actively supporting our organization.

HOLIDAY APPEAL

Holiday appeal letters are also going out now. These year-end gifts help boost our funding at a critical time of the year.

CAMPAIGN FOR CONSERVATION

Contributions support the staff's development of projects to carry out ClearWater's Conservation Action Plan for Nittany Valley. Pledge \$10,000 or more by the end of the year and join our new Leadership Giving Circle!

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

One-time \$1,000 gift appropriate for those individuals and families that usually pay \$35 - \$50 membership dues each year.

DON HAMER LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Donations support non-staff expenses of our Land Conservation Program such as attorney fees, appraisals, and

phase I environmental assessments. Added bonus... Don matches up to \$5,000 per year!

CLEARWATER CONSERVANCY ENDOWMENTS AT THE CENTRE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ClearWater has two permanent endowments at CCCF: an operating fund and a conservation easement stewardship fund. Visit www.centrecountycf.org for giving instructions.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Available in a wide variety of amounts to suit any business. Event sponsorships include For the Love of Art & Chocolate in January, Arbor Day and Watershed Cleanup Day in April, Otto's Golf-Fest in August, the Spring Creek Day Family Festival in September, ClearWater's Annual Meeting and Volunteer Night in November, and Adventures in Conservation programs throughout the year.

PLANNED GIVING

Members and supporters can leave a legacy in the landscape by remembering ClearWater Conservancy in wills or naming ClearWater as a beneficiary of retirement or life insurance plans.

LAND OR CONSERVATION EASEMENT DONATIONS

ClearWater Conservancy works with landowners who wish to permanently protect lands with high conservation value. Tax benefits may result from outright donations of land or from conservation easements on land that remains in private ownership. If interested in exploring conservation options, please call Bill Hilshey, our Conservation Easement Manager.

RAFFLES

\$10 buys a chance to win an original oil painting by Jennifer Kane, and another \$10 will get you a chance for a 5'x10' authentic Persian Rug from the Desert Rug Company.

SPECIAL EVENT TICKETS

Coming up soon on January 25 are the For the Love of Art & Chocolate event and the extra Wine & Chocolate Pairing Lesson and Tasting... each just \$25 per ticket. A great deal for all of the chocoholic conservationists!

T-SHIRTS, NOTECARDS, & POSTERS MAKE GOOD GIFTS

\$10 each for a ClearWater logo t-shirt, a set of 8 Millbrook Marsh notecards by local artists, or the Spring Creek Biodiversity Poster & Teaching Guide.

If you are 70 1/2 or older, your donation to ClearWater Conservancy could go even further in 2007

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals 70 1/2 or older to make tax-exempt charitable contributions up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA assets to an eligible charity. The transaction must take place by December 31, 2007, as it is not certain if this provision will be extended.

By taking advantage of this opportunity, you can avoid the taxes associated with traditional IRA rollovers and dramatically increase the actual amount of your gift.

Please consult your own financial and legal advisors before making a charitable gift.

Highlights from our Annual Meeting

ClearWater Conservancy's Annual Meeting on November 7 was a special opportunity to recognize and thank some of our most dedicated volunteers and community partners in natural resource conservation.

Notable ClearWater Volunteers and Their Projects

Amos Goodall *Eagle Field conservation easement legal work*
Kathy Derge Gipe *Land Conservation & Stewardship Chair*
Chris Finton *Watershed Cleanup Day Chair*
Joe Bishop, Steve McKenna, Ford Stryker, Matt Genchur, Pat Morse, Laurene Keck, Roger Garthwaite *Otto's Golf-Fest*
Carolyn Mahan, Joe Bishop, Kathy Derge Gipe, Brad Ross, Mary Walsh *Conservation Action Plan (CAP) Steering Committee*
Joe Bishop, Dr. Rob Brooks, Dr. Bob Carline, Rob Cooper, Dr. Duane Diefenbach, Dr. Jim Finley, Jay Lynch, Dr. Carolyn Mahan, Sarah Miller, Brad Ross, Tony Ross, Charles Bier, Erika Hollis, Mark Killar *CAP Core Project Team*
Bob Eberhart, Kristen Saacke Blunk, Bob Carline *Several years of informative Candidates Forums*
Bonnie Hutchinson *Musser Gap commemorative quilt*
Bob Leonard *Spring Creek Canyon "Virtual Tour" production*
Larry Fennessey, Jay Lynch, Todd Giddings *USGS Model Technical Committee*

Community Conservation Commendations

Centre County League of Women Voters for the Spring Creek Canyon public forum on September 20 and the Ridge Protection public forum on October 29
Centre Region Council of Governments for their work developing a Riparian Overlay Zoning Ordinance
United Way Day of Caring Committee for several years of major support to ClearWater Conservancy; and to volunteers from Penn State Hospitality Services for this year's new roof
Joe Boston from Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited for leading the Habitat Improvement Project at the Sheep Farm
Centre County Solid Waste Authority for establishing a fund to offset the cost of tipping fees associated with the Great PA Cleanup (and ClearWater's Watershed Cleanup Day)
Ferguson Township for developing their Ridge Overlay Zoning to protect sensitive ridge and gap environments
State College Borough for its action plan for greenhouse gas mitigation
Spring Creek Watershed Commission for their huge step forward under the PA Intermunicipal Government Cooperation Act
PA Fish & Boat Commission for the successful partnership to remove McCoy-Linn Dam and restore that section of Spring Creek



Brad Ross and Katie Ombalski were both surprised and honored to receive their awards.

The Donald Hamer Leadership Award

Awarded to Katie Ombalski

In recognition of her tremendous leadership in the past year on the acquisition of Musser Gap, the protection of Spring Creek Canyon, the removal of McCoy-Linn Dam and restoration of Spring Creek, and the development of ClearWater's new Conservation Action Plan for the future of conservation in the Nittany Valley.

The Barbara Fisher Volunteer of the Year Award

Awarded to Brad Ross

In recognition of his dedicated volunteer service to our Land Conservation Program, including notably his participation on the Conservation Action Plan Committee, the creation of Biological Inventories of our conserved properties, and development of the management plan for the Eagle Field conservation easement.



A NOTE FROM JENNIFER

Hello Friends...

You've no doubt already read about Don Hamer's pledge to ClearWater Conservancy's Campaign for Conservation and his Leadership Giving Circle challenge. But I also wanted to let you know how successful Don's last fundraising challenge has been.

In 2004, Don committed \$5,000 per year to the Don Hamer Land Conservation Fund, which provides funding for non-staff expenses of our land conservation projects. He also offered to match up to \$5,000 in additional contributions to this fund. Since the inception of that challenge, we have added just shy of \$50,000 to this important fund! The investment and distribution policy for this fund allows up to 5% of the past three years average fund balance to be used for land conservation expenses. This year, the Board authorized the 2007 funding to be used for legal support related to the protection of the Spring Creek Canyon. Many thanks to Don and the others who stepped up to his challenge.

Speaking of the Spring Creek Canyon, our testimony at the October legislative hearing essentially encouraged the completion of planning before land divestment, remained neutral on the ownership of the land, and re-stated our interest in ensuring the conservation of the exceptional biological and water resources of the Spring Creek Valley Biodiversity Area with conservation easements. We continue to do our best to work in positive partnerships with the parties involved with this critically important decision for our community in hopes of bringing about the best conservation solution within the existing decision-making framework.

The Spring Creek Canyon was the site of one of our fall "Come for the Blue... Stay for the Green" Adventures in Conservation hikes this year. About 140 people joined us for a special-permission peak at the normally off-limits segment of the Spring Creek Canyon on Rockview property. The most ambitious of the crew hiked the 4-1/2 miles from Fisherman's Paradise to Rock Road along the stream (it was 3.6 miles to Shiloh Road, for those of you who were wondering). This hike was one of six Adventures in Conservation events we held this fall. They turned out to be quite popular, so we will definitely be doing them again next year. One of the key features of this series of events is our partnership with many of the other conservation and community groups in our region that showcases all of our good works. If you have any ideas for next year, want to partner on an event, or would be willing to help with the planning for one of our Adventures, please email Melinda Turner, our Adventures in Conservation chair at Melinda_Turner@fws.gov.



Karl & Iris Striedieck were recognized at the Annual Meeting for granting a conservation easement on their Eagle Field property in 2007.

Finally, it is the time of year to encourage you to come out to our "For the Love of Art & Chocolate" celebration at the end of January. The holiday excitement will be over and the winter winds will be howling, but inside The Penn Stater we will warm up to the sounds of Jazza-Ma-Phone, that amazing array of chocolate delicacies, and some enthusiastic bidding on another great collection of nature-inspired art from local artists to benefit ClearWater Conservancy. Tickets are \$25 and make great gifts!

We will also bring back a selection of Hersheys dark chocolates and Mount Nittany wines for a separate \$25 pairing instruction event before the main celebration. Word is out after last year's introduction of this new twist, and we expect many wine and chocolate connoisseurs to join the fun.

Thanks to everyone for your support in so many ways, and best wishes for a warm and meaningful holiday season. God bless.



Thanks to KBB and Wiscoy Pet Food Company for sponsoring the Annual Meeting.

OUR MISSION

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Sturniolo, President
Melinda Turner, Vice President
Patrick Morse, Treasurer
Ford Stryker, Secretary

Jean Aron, Joe Bishop, Dan Crust, Robert Donaldson, Barbara Fisher, Kelleann Foster, Don Hamer, Chris Magent, Steve Miller, James M. Rayback, Dave Sweetland

EX-OFFICOS

George Beatty*, Bob Carline, Walter Ebaugh, Tony Gerace*, Caren Gloffelty, George Hildenbrandt, Jim McClure, Brian McCullough, Doug Wion, John Ziegler

STAFF

Jennifer Shuey
Executive Director
Sarah Edge
Office Manager
Katie Ombalski
Conservation Biologist
Geoff Smith
Water Resources Coordinator
Bill Hilshey
Conservation Easement Manager

LIFE MEMBERS

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

**deceased*

Winter 2007

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Thank you for your support!



Stan Crilly

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

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