

News from the Spring Creek Chapter



44th Annual Dinner and FUNraiser

There's still time to register for this year's annual banquet.

We're celebrating receiving the **2016 Gold Trout Award** and raising funds to continue our work. Bring your friends for a fun night of food, drink and an auction full of amazing items.

Get a sneak peek at the auction items here: [Sneak Peek](#)

When: Saturday, March 25, 2017, 5:30 - 9:00PM
 Where: Ramada State College Hotel & Conf. Center
 1450 S Atherton St, State College, PA

Advance tickets: Adults: \$50 (Deadline Extended to 3/21)
 Table of 8: \$360 Table of 10: \$450
 Children under 15: \$15
 After Mar 21 and at the door adult tickets are \$55

Premium Raffle: Orvis Helios 2, 10', 4 WT, 4 piece fly rod (\$795 value). Tickets will be available at the event and are \$10 each, or 3 for \$25

Registration forms are available here: [Registration Form](#)

Can't attend?

You can still help by making a donation or becoming a sponsor. We gratefully accept donated items for our auction, monetary donations or you can become an event sponsor.

Information and the benefits of becoming a sponsor are here: [Sponsor](#).

Questions? Contact Paula Sowers at ptortugas@gmail.com or 301-351-5930

Take a look at some of our 2016 accomplishments:
[2016 Accomplishments and Activities](#)

Joe Boston to receive 2016 George Harvey Memorial Spring Creek Heritage Award

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Our Mission

To conserve, protect and restore Spring Creek's coldwater fishery and watershed

 Like us on Facebook

[Visit the Website!](#)

Member Meetings

Join us the first Thursday of the month, 7:30 pm, to hear speakers on a variety of fishing and conservation subjects.

[Calendar of Events](#)

Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to all members. They are held at the State College Comfort Suites

[Meeting Schedule](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

Joe Boston has been chosen as the 2016 George Harvey Memorial Spring Creek Heritage Award recipient. The award is given annually by the Chapter and ClearWater Conservancy to a person who is a major contributor to the health and well-being of the Spring Creek Watershed. He will be presented with the

award at SCCTU's 44th Annual Dinner and FUNraiser on March 25th.

Joe Boston is an avid fly-fisherman and conservationist. He joined TU in 1961 as a member of Penn's Woods Chapter where he worked on bank stabilization projects. Later, with the Valley Forge Chapter, he volunteered for habitat projects on West Valley Creek.

Joe moved to State College and joined the Spring Creek Chapter after retiring in 2001. One of the first meetings he attended featured a presentation by Dr. Bob Carline (George Harvey Award, 2006) outlining how his efforts installing fencing had successfully reduced suspended solids in Spring Creek. A chart that really stuck with Joe showed the direct relationship between reduced suspended solids and an increased number of redds. That started Joe's significant conservation efforts in our watershed.

Joe became involved in virtually every conservation project undertaken by the Spring Creek Chapter from that point forward and volunteered as a site steward with ClearWater Conservancy. His tireless work as project manager, grant author and chief site steward has led to many successful projects. Some include the Sheep Farm Projects, 550 bank stabilization and riparian planting, the Distillery, Milesburg Upper and Lower bank stabilization and riparian planting, Fisherman's Paradise, Rock Road, and the McCoy Area Riparian planting now referred to as the "*Boston Commons*".

Joe is also a great believer in approaching stewardship from a scientific viewpoint. In 2015 he took over leadership of the Redds Survey. The survey counts the number of nests (redds) where Spring Creek's brown trout have laid their eggs. He formalized the program to identify specific locations using detailed maps and expanded the survey to cover all 22 miles of the creek plus part of Slab Cabin Run. The resulting data is used to evaluate the health of the stream and to identify and prioritize future habitat improvement and riparian planting.

Established in 2004, the first recipient of this award was the legendary George Harvey, originator of the Penn State Fly Fishing program. Award recipients include:

2004 - George Harvey	2005 - Tony Gerace	2006 - Bob Carline
2007 - Rob Brooks	2008 - Bob Donaldson	2009 - Joe Humphreys
2010 - Bob Eberhardt	2011 - Don Hamer	2012 - Dan Shields
2013 - Kristen Saacke Blunk	2014 - Jim McClure	2015 - Barbara Fisher

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Volunteer Opportunity

Spring Creek Watershed Cleanup Day

We're looking for volunteers for the 2017 Spring Creek Watershed Cleanup Day.

When: April 22nd, 2017, 9:00 am.

Where: SCCTU will be doing cleanup in three areas:

Rock Road (I99 to Rt 550), McCoy Dam (Parking Lot to Kwik Fill)
Slab Cabin Run (S. Atherton to Centre Hills)

There will be a picnic hosted by our partner ClearWater Conservancy following the cleanup. It will be at Tussey Mountain Ski Resort at the pavilion starting at noon.

Contact Lynn Mitchell at lynnmitch74@gmail.com to volunteer. Please let Lynn know which area you would prefer to do the cleanup.

Veterans Service Program

SCCTU's VSP Holds First Aid Mental Health Seminar

Thirty volunteers attended the VSP's seminar in order to learn how to become better mentors to the veterans involved with our program.

The all day seminar helped the attendees to become more sensitive to the needs of the participants in our outreach program. The VSP program has reached out to more than 500 veterans and their families over the past three years and has become a model for other chapter's outreach programs.

VSP Fishing Outings to begin April 23rd on Spring Creek

Pass the word to veterans and military personnel. VSP fishing outings are set to resume at Fishermans Paradise, 1150 Spring Creek Rd., Bellefonte, PA . Streamside mentors will be out at 1:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month ready to teach veterans, active duty military personnel and their families to fish or improve their skills. Look for the *Veterans Meet Here* banner. Pick on the flyer at right for more details.

If you're interested in volunteering as a streamside mentor or need more information contact Jim Lanning at:

jlanningvsp@gmail.com

Board of Directions Changes

January saw a number of changes the Board of Directors:

- We welcomed two newly elected board members, Kate Lemon and Jim Hepner.
- Lynn Mitchell accepted the newly created position of Senior Vice President

- Richard Van Horn, long time board member and former Treasurer retired.

You can learn more about our new board members on the website: [@Kate](#) [@Jim](#)

April 6th General Meeting

Ernie DeMastus, VSP Trip to The Magic Waters Lodge in Chile

Ernie and his wife, both veterans, were chosen by TU's Veterans Service Program to spend a week fishing in Chile. Ernie is a major contributor to the Spring Creek Chapter's VSP program, helping with events, mentoring, and coordinating.

From Ernie:

"My talk will be about my family's trip to The Magic Waters Lodge in Chile. I will talk about everything that led up to us going. Detailing the specific programs used to make our trip possible. In addition to showing pictures and videos of the various adventures we were apart of. In summary, I will outline the magic trip that TU made possible."



Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited | 299 Nimitz Avenue | State College | PA | 16801