

Tertiary Treatment

The Newsletter of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

September, 2010

Volume 33, Issue 7

Eberhart to receive Heritage Award

By Chris Hennessey

For the past 20 years, Bob Eberhart has quietly ensured that development in the Centre region does not harm the waters of the Spring Creek watershed. His efforts on behalf of the stream and its tribu-

taries will be recognized Oct. 3 at the Spring Creek Day Festival when he receives the Spring Creek Heritage Award.

ClearWater Conservancy and the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited began jointly presenting the Spring Creek Heritage

Award in 2004 to recognize the efforts of outstanding community volunteers who have shared their time, talents, and passions to protect, restore and bring greater community awareness to Spring Creek and its watershed.



Bob Eberhart

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TU member and PSU Fly Fishing Instructor Mark Belden spray paints a stencil on the curb behind a storm drain in his Stearns Crossing neighborhood in College Township. College and Harris Townships are looking for more volunteers to help with the effort.

Stenciling programs aimed at pollution prevention

College and Harris Townships have rolled out a program to help alert the public that local storm drains ultimately reach Spring Creek and that pollutants of any kind should not be poured into a storm water inlet.

Using township-provided materials, individuals or groups provide the manpower to stencil "INLET DISCHARGES TO SPRING CREEK" on curbs adjacent to drains.

TU member and PSU Fly Fishing Instructor Mark Belden, his daughter, Anne, and SCTU President Judi Sittler test drove College Township's stenciling kit in

mid-September in preparation for an upcoming public service stenciling project Belden plans to undertake in his Stearns Crossing neighborhood with some of his PSU students.

Both townships are looking for additional volunteers to help with the effort.

To participate in the College Township Spring Creek Awareness Inlet Stenciling Program, call Joan McCrum, engineering secretary at 231-3021.

Harris Township residents should contact Township Engineer Don Franson at 466-6228 or dfranson@collegetownship.org.



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Spring Creek Day Fest coming up!
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Founded in 1973, the 350-member Spring Creek TU is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Spring Creek watershed for the benefit of trout and other species.

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At SCTU, giving comes in many forms

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a group of people who give to the conservation and preservation of our extraordinary Spring Creek Watershed. That giving comes in many forms, from paying dues to volunteering, to everything in between.

For example:

1) We currently have 352 members as of September 13, 2010.

2) Mark Pencak and Dick Peterson worked as volunteers alongside PA F&B, on this summer's habitat project for almost 3 straight weeks, in the hottest days of summer.

3) Joe Chandler, a high school student, worked on the habitat project for more hours than his community service program required, simply because he liked what he was doing. Dave Keller and our great volunteers treated him "like one of the guys." He is now a SCTU member.

4) Brock Benson, a very new member of SCTU, is a PSU student majoring in Parks and Rec. with a prior two-year degree in Wildlife

Technology. He made the effort to find my contact information to alert us to a possible problem on Cedar Run. Fish & Boat checked on the area and found all permits were in order. Concerned individuals are important to us.

5) Vince Norris has kept our e-mail list for years, adding new members as they join. Changing e-mail addresses as needed and checking on names that might have "fallen off" the list.

6) Dan Kerstetter has been the man behind the scenes of our website for years. He is always responsive to new information and has answered a million of my questions.

7) Al Phillips deserves a standing ovation for the great job he does with our monthly membership meetings. He gets good presenters, good door prizes, he's reliable, dedicated, and a fun guy too!

8) Katie Ombalski, conservation biologist with ClearWater Conservancy, is tireless in her efforts to preserve and protect the Spring Creek Watershed. She was with us every step of the

Looking Upstream


By Judi Sittler,
SCTU President



way during our three-year habitat improvement project. She has written grants, organized the various groups involved, made sure things like grass seed got purchased and on site, and done hundreds of other things too numerous to mention.

9) Your board members are a dedicated group who are thoughtful, enthusiastic, and focused on what's best for Spring Creek. The board has a good combination of "long timers" and "new timers," which gives a balance between our history and experience and new, fresh ways of looking at things.

10) Our members, simply by paying their dues, demonstrate a desire to preserve and protect our extraordinary watershed.

Thank you to everyone involved in the best TU chapter in PA! 

Spring Creek Day Family Festival Oct. 3

Clearwater Conservancy will hold its Spring Creek Day Family Festival Sunday, Oct. 3 from noon to 5 p.m. at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, 548 Puddintown Road, State College.

This free, family-friendly educational event is aimed at nature lovers and will include music by the Tussey Mountain Moonshiners, Pure Cane Sugar, Murphy's Junction and others. Food will be provided by

Webster's and there will be lots of children's activities and information from local conservation groups. Also planned are hikes, demonstrations and interactive learning.

The event is sponsored by Centre Region Parks & Recreation, Nittany Chem-Dry and Tussey Mountain Outfitters.

For more information go to www.clearwaterconservancy.org/springcreekday.htm.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES: June 14, 2010

Board of Directors Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Meeting of June 14, 2010 at 7 p.m. Comfort Inn Suites, State College, PA.

Board Members present:

Judi Sittler, Bill Brusse,
Rick Van Horn, Chris
Hennessey, Bob
Donaldson, Jim Purtell,
Chris Haser and Bob
Eberhart.

Approval of March Minutes:

Several editorial
changes to the draft min-
utes of the meeting of
May 17 were requested,
and the minutes were then
approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Rick Van
Horn reported that as of
May 31, the net worth of
the Chapter was \$33,235.
Note that this figure does
not include grant funds
held in separate accounts
that must be spent on
habitat projects. The
Treasurer's Report was
approved as submitted.

Treatment of Discharge from Local Fish Hatcheries:

Bob Wilberding, Fish
Culture Manager at the
Pleasant Gap Hatchery,
discussed the efforts to
improve the quality of the
water discharged from the
Tylersville, Pleasant Gap,
Bellefonte, and Benner
Springs Hatcheries.
Benner Springs, the last of

the local hatcheries to be
upgraded, is just now com-
ing on line. Filters now in
use have greatly reduced
the amount of suspended
solids discharged from the
hatcheries; however the
filters are very expensive
and require considerable
maintenance.

Concerning new
requirements that will like-
ly be imposed by the
Chesapeake Bay strategy,
meeting the nitrogen
requirements should not be
a problem for the hatch-
eries, but phosphorus will
be a challenge because of
the high phosphorus con-
tent of the fish food.

DEP's long term goal is
to improve the water quali-
ty of the stream reaches
downstream from the
hatcheries so that these
waters can be removed
from the 303d list of
impaired streams.

Old Business:

Update on memorials:

Chris Hennessey has
spoken to Ann Kelly, a
member of the Dave
Carson family; the family
wants donated funds to be
used for stream improve-
ments on their property. It
was reported that Stan
Smith, owner of a neigh-
boring reach of Spring
Creek would also like to
see habitat improvement
on his property. It was
agreed that these projects
should be put off until fall
when the projects already
in progress will have been
completed.

A memorial for Tony

Gerace may be located at
the McCoy dam access area
now being developed.

A permanent bench fac-
ing Spring Creek at
Fishermen's Paradise is
being considered as a
memorial for George
Harvey.

Jim Purtell believes that
Dan Hawbaker has the
Duck Pond Plaque that
commemorates the
Chapter's successful effort
to divert Thompson Run
around the Duck Pond so
that the cold water from the
Thompson Spring would
not be mixed with the warm
water of the Pond. Jim will
follow up with Mr.
Hawbaker

PA Council of TU ñ
Trout in the Classroom
Raffle: The Board agreed
to sell 40 \$5 raffle tickets to
benefit the Council's Trout
in the Classroom program.
The drawing will be held
on October 2 at the
Council's Fall Meeting at
Fisherman's Paradise.

Steak Fry:

The Chapter's annual
steak fry, held on June 12 at
Poe Paddy, was a great suc-
cess thanks to Chef Jay
Lynch.

New Business:

Reintroduction of the green drake to Spring Creek:

Hannah Stout, a PSU
Ph.D. candidate is investi-
gating the reestablishment
of the green drake in Spring
Creek from which it has
been absent for some years.

To date she has been
attempting to raise green
drake eggs and nymphs in
the substrate from Spring
Creek. It was suggested
that she might be a speaker
for a Chapter Membership
meeting.

Committee Reports:

Banquet Committee:

Jim Purtell reported that
net income from the 2010
Banquet was \$9,614, slight-
ly above that of 2009.
There was discussion of
how to improve next year's
banquet. It was suggested
that John Arway, the new
Executive Director of
PFBC should be invited to
attend.

Public relations:

Chris Hennessey report-
ed that the new format for
the newsletter Tertiary
Treatment was well
received and that he had
gotten numerous compli-
ments. Although no Board
or Membership meetings
will be held in July and
August, the newsletter will
continue to be published.

First Cast Program:

Chris Hennessey report-
ed that the First Cast pro-
gram to be held in July is
well organized and ready to
go.

Volunteers from the
Chapter will be needed,
especially on those days
when on-stream sessions
are held.

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

June 14, 2010

From Page 3

Membership:

Chris Haser reported that 32 new members of TU have signed up, of which 23 are local and will likely be members of the Spring Creek Chapter. He has been distributing free membership cards from National TU along with National TU brochures with inserts from our chapter.

Youth:

Ron Shealer recommended that the Chapter look for a teacher in another school within the Spring Creek Watershed to set up a new Trout in the Classroom program. This would be in addition to the program Ron is already running at the Mount Nittany Middle School.

Conservation:

Bill Brusse reported that this summer's habitat improvement projects supported by DCNR and other granting agencies and carried out mainly by PFBC crews are scheduled as follows: Spring Creek Park ñ week of July 6; PSU Sheep Farm ñ week of July 12; and Fisherman's Paradise ñ July 19. Volunteers will be needed to assist with these projects.

Bob Donaldson reported that legislation that will divest ownership of some Rockview lands to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, PFBC, Penn State and Benner Township has been drafted and will likely be introduced to the legislature soon. The legislation would give PFBC a corridor along Spring Creek as well as the site of its present hatchery.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Eberhart
Secretary

(These Minutes were approved at the Board Meeting of September 13, 2010.)

Eberhart to receive Heritage Award

From Page 1

Past recipients include George Harvey (2004), Tony Gerace (2005), Bob Carline (2006), Bob Donaldson (2007), Rob Brooks (2008) and Joe Humphreys (2009).

Eberhart said most of his work to preserve Spring Creek

has been through

"keeping an eye on development."

By serving on the Halfmoon

Township

Planning

Commission and

later the Centre

Region Planning

Commission,

Eberhart helped to

mitigate encroach-

ment, runoff and

other potentially

harmful effects of

construction from

impacting water quality.

"I think we've done a really

good job over the years pro-

tecting the creek, but I think

people need to be aware of the

threats that development

poses," he said. "We are lucky

in this watershed to have the

kind of water that we do, but it

would be easy to screw it up."

Today, Eberhart continues his watch over the stream as chairman of the Spring Creek Watershed Association, board member and secretary Spring Creek Trout Unlimited, member of Clearwater Conservancy and as a board of the Center County Farmland Trust.

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protecting the creek,

but I think people

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the threats that

development poses."

Bob Eberhart

Eberhart, who lives near Stormstown, came to Happy Valley in 1959 from Chester County and worked in the Department of Veterinary Science at Penn State until his retirement in 1990.

Bob Donaldson, who serves on the boards of both

ClearWater and SCTU, and received the Heritage Award himself in 2007, nominated Eberhart for the award.

"I thought he fit the mold of the previous recipients. He is someone who has dedicated himself, over many years, to preserving the Spring Creek watershed," Donaldson said.

Upcoming general meeting programs

October 7: Showing of "Underwater World of Trout, Vol. 1", produced and narrated by Ozzie Ozefovich.

November 4: Andy Shiels of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, will present: "Recent Improvements to Effluent Treatment Systems at PFBC's Spring Creek Hatcheries". Shiels is in charge of monitoring hatchery effluents and making sure the quality of the streams affected is as good as can be achieved.