

Tertiary Treatment

The Newsletter of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

October, 2010

Volume 33, Issue 9



Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited Secretary Bob Pennell congratulates Spring Creek Chapter President Judi Sittler on the chapter's award and presents her with an engraved fly box marking the occasion.

SCTU recognized for habitat work

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited received the Best Chapter Project Award at the 2010 Annual Meeting of Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited Oct. 2 at the Stack House at Fisherman's Paradise, Bellefonte.

The award recognized Spring Creek TU's recently completed, three-year Habitat Improvement Project on Spring Creek, which included placement of 100 in-stream structures and more than 1,500 feet of stream bank fencing and riparian plantings.

Five areas of the stream were targeted, including Fisherman's Paradise, Spring Creek Park in Houserville, McCoy Dam

near Bellefonte, an area near Route 550, and a stretch near the Penn State sheep farm in Houserville.

The funding for the project included a \$5,000 TU National Embrace-a-Stream grant, a \$178,000 grant from DCNR, a \$60,000 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Federation, \$25,000 from the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, and \$6,000 in SCTU Chapter funds.

With in-kind contributions from the Fish & Boat Commission, volunteers, and donations from local businesses, the project easily exceeded \$500,000 in total project benefits.

Congratulations to us all.



News In Brief

National TU Meeting may be coming to State College in 2012

After being approached by representatives of TU National in September, the board of Spring Creek TU voted at its October meeting to throw our chapter's hat into the ring as a possible site for the 2012 National Trout Unlimited Meeting.

If SCTU gets the nod, State College would be the site of the annual meeting. Our chapter (along with much help from the state and national TU) would put on events and host guided fishing expeditions for attendees on local waters.

SCTU would also get the opportunity to showcase our stream conservation efforts to the attendees from across the U.S. More to come as the process unfolds.

Calendar Alert! Holiday Party Dec. 10

Save the date for the Spring Creek Trout Unlimited Holiday Party the evening of Friday, Dec. 10. Time and location to be announced.

Attending the holiday party is a great way to meet other SCTU members in a casual setting. The festive beverages and Pot Luck eats aren't bad, either.

Continued on Page 2

Inside This Issue

Looking Upstream:
SCTU and PSU.

Page 2

Facebook page has
unique content.

Page 4



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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SCTU, PSU intersect in many ways

How fortunate we are to have Spring Creek, a Class A stream, running through our community.

The good fortune goes further with Penn State University in our back yard. PSU gives us students and faculty doing all sorts of research and instruction that benefit our conservation goals.

For example, Hannah LC Stout, a Ph. D. candidate at PSU, is attempting to re-introduce the Green Drake to Spring Creek. As many of you know, the Green Drake was wiped out of

Spring Creek years ago when a Penn State lab technician poured cyanide down a drain, polluting the creek.

Another student, David Retchless, a master's student in the Geography Department at Penn State, is doing a project on local weather and climate change and how that might affect our

conservation efforts locally.

Melanie Kammerer is a senior in the College of Agriculture. She is an Agroecology major involved in a project for her integrated pest management class.

They are studying the future acquisition of agricultural lands by Penn State in the Spring Creek area.

The students are trying to develop a practical land use and pest management plan for this area that meets production goals while conserving this unique ecosystem.

Then there is the Penn State Fly Fishing Club, whose faculty advisor is Greg Hoover, expert entomologist.

This PSU club is open to anyone associated with Penn State. The goal of the club is to promote fly fishing and fly tying.

The final spotlight in this brief celebration of the pro-

Looking Upstream

By Judi Sittler,
SCTU President



ductive connection between our Spring Creek Chapter and Penn State is the Fly Fishing curriculum taught on campus and initiated by George Harvey. What a fantastic legacy he gave to everyone interested in preserving our coldwater fisheries and the gorgeous trout that thrive in those waters. George passed the fly rod to Joe Humphreys, the first president of SCTU, who taught the classes after George. Next in line was Vance McCullough, who was the secretary for this chapter when SCTU was originally formed in 1973. The current instructor is Mark Belden, active member of SCTU and another strong advocate for our local trout.

This is just a sampling of how SCTU embraces PSU to enhance our conservation goals.



Hannah LC Stout, a Ph.D. candidate at PSU, is attempting to reintroduce the Green Drake to Spring Creek.

NewsInBrief

From Page 1

Bellefonte frack water processing rumors untrue, officials say

Officials in Bellefonte, when asked by SCTU President Judi Sittler in October, reported that rumors circulating that Bellefonte wastewater treatment facilities will be accepting Marcellus Shale frack water for processing are untrue and that there is no plan to accept such water for processing in the future.

Get in deep by volunteering to serve on the SCTU board

Several openings are expected on the SCTU board in January 2011 and members will be needed to help run the chapter.

Anyone interested in serving on the board is invited to let President Judy Sittler know.

Serving on the board is a great way to build relationships with fellow anglers and serve your community by wading a bit deeper into local coldwater conservation. (Pun intended.)

BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Sept. 13, 2010

**Board of Directors
Spring Creek Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
Meeting of September
13, 2010, 7 p.m.
Comfort Inn Suites,
State College, PA.**

Board Members present:

Judi Sittler, Bill Brusse, Rick Van Horn, Chris Hennessey, Bob Donaldson, Chris Haser, Jay Lynch, Dick Stevenson and Bob Eberhart.

Katie Ombalski of ClearWater Conservancy was also present.

Approval of June Minutes:

The draft minutes of the Board meeting of June 14 were approved as submitted.

Habitat Project:

Katie Ombalski, who has been managing finances for the Habitat project, provided a summary of the expenses to be paid from grant funds for the last fiscal year.

Although not all bills have been received, total expenses are expected to be about \$149,000. It appears that the requirements for matching funds required by the granting agencies will be met. Remaining work includes the development of interpretive signs at all project sites. Some funds are available for these signs and for memorial benches.

Galbraith Gap Funding: Katie Ombalski reported on Clearwater's efforts to find funding for purchase of a privately owned and eco-

logically valuable tract located in Galbraith Gap. Clearwater has an option to buy a 152 acre parcel that includes an unnamed tributary of Galbraith Gap Run, which supports one of the last five remaining wild brook trout populations in the Spring Creek Watershed. The cost of the property is \$685,000 and the total project cost will be in the neighborhood of \$700,000. The value of the property was established by an appraisal.

Once the property is conserved, ClearWater Conservancy will donate the property to DCNR so that it can be incorporated into Rothock State Forest. To raise the necessary funds, ClearWater submitted a \$350,000 grant application to DCNR and an additional \$100,000 grant was recently awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. ClearWater also recently received a \$25,000 private donation.

ClearWater is now in the major donor phase to raise the remaining \$225,000 from community members who have the capacity to consider giving at a high level, and they will extend their fundraising efforts to the public in the near future. Katie came to the Chapter in order to increase awareness of the project and to invite the Chapter to become a partner in the effort. She is interested in learning about the availability of funds from groups interested in protecting and restoring brook trout populations. She is also interested in the possibility of an

Embrace-A-Stream grant from National TU. The Board voted to support Clearwater's Galbraith Gap Project.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Rick Van Horn reported that as of August 31, the net worth of the Chapter was \$18,588. 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.

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2010:

Treasurer Rick Van Horn presented a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. A significant change from the previous year is a reduction in funds budgeted for the newsletter; this is possible because the newsletter is now being distributed electronically and not by U.S. Mail. The following changes to the proposed budget were suggested and accepted: 1) \$150 will be budgeted for purchase of supplies to support the stream monitoring activities of the Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps; 2) \$160 for a chapter membership in the CBICC will instead be donated to the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited. The proposed budget was accepted as amended.

Old Business:

Progress on memorials: Bob Donaldson, who has been working with Bill

Brusse and Chris Hennessey on this project, reported that in addition to the in-stream improvements on Spring Creek near Oak Hall proposed as a memorial to Dave Carson, Stan Smith and Joe Humphreys, the owners of adjacent properties might also like to have stream improvements on their properties. He suggested that a consultant might be willing to provide a free estimate of what needs to be done and the costs of the project. Bob will try to arrange for such a consultation.

Memorials for George Harvey and Tony Gerace are tentatively planned for Fisherman's Paradise and the McCoy Dam access respectively.

Both properties are owned by PFBC, and that agency will likely permit only benches as memorials. Bill Brusse will talk with Phil Hawk about benches, and Jay Lynch will speak to Roger Pollock about bronze plaques to be attached to the benches.

PATU Raffle Tickets:

Judi Sittler reported that the Chapter had sold 40 raffle tickets to benefit the Trout in the Classroom Project as requested by PATU.

Sympathy Card for Family of Elton Tait:

Judi Sittler reported that the Chapter had sent a sympathy card to the family of Elton Tait following his death.

Continued on Page 4

BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Sept. 13, 2010

From Page 3

Chapter steak fry equipment:

Chris Hennessey has volunteered to be the keeper of the Chapter's steak fry equipment.

Habitat project equipment:

Bill Brusse has custody of the Chapter's hardhats, gloves, vests, etc. that are used during habitat projects.

New Business:

PATU Annual Meeting and Training Session:

This meeting will be held on October 1 and 2 at Fisherman's Paradise. Judi Sittler, Chris Hennessey and Bob Eberhart will attend on behalf of the Chapter.

PaSEC request for funds for testing chemicals:

The Pa Senior Environmental Corp (PaSEC) has requested funds for purchase of testing chemicals for their water monitoring project. Bob Donaldson reported that this group is now administratively a part of ClearWater. He believes that their project is worthwhile and, in some instances, supplements the data collected by the Water Resources Monitoring Project. Jay Lynch wondered whether the data collected by this group is sufficiently reliable to be useful in scientific projects. Bob Donaldson moved that the \$150 allocated to PaSEC in the new budget be retained. The motion was approved.

Proposal to name part of the Spring

Creek Canyon land in honor of George Harvey: Chapter member Ted Trostle had suggested that some part of the Spring Creek Canyon be named as a memorial to George Harvey. After discussion, the matter was tabled.

Trash clean-up at McCoy Dam Access area:

Ted Trostle noted that there is much trash littering the McCoy Dam access area and suggested that the Chapter clean it up. It was agreed that this task might be a part of next spring's Spring Creek Clean-up Day.

Nominations for PaTU Awards:

Judi Sittler reported that the Chapter had submitted two nominations for annual Awards to be made by PaTU at the Annual meeting in October. We nominated our own Spring Creek Habitat Projects for "Best Chapter Project", and Dave Keller of PFBC as "Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, Professional".

Review of Chapter By-Laws:

Judi Sittler noted that it has been some time since the Chapter By-Laws have been reviewed. Judi agreed to distribute copies of the By-Laws to Board members. The board will decide at its next meeting whether a comprehensive review is needed.

Planning for Membership meetings:

Judi Sittler announced that Chapter member Mark Pencak will assist Allen Phillips in organizing the monthly membership meetings.

Dan Shields' book "Fly Fishing

Pennsylvania's Spring Creek":

Dan Shields has donated 100 copies of his book to the Chapter. After discussion it was agreed that we should offer these for sale at \$10 per copy. Some copies may be used as table favors at the annual Banquet.

Committee Reports:

Public Relations:

Chris Hennessey reported that he is not seeking advertisements for the newsletter. He also said that he will be writing a column for each issue.

Membership:

Chris Haser will submit a monthly report of new members. The Chapter now has 352 members. Judi Sittler said that each new member should be welcomed to the chapter and that it is important that new members be added to the Listserv.

Youth:

Ron Shealer has written to Nittany Bank requesting financial support for our First Cast program. Several Board members will meet with representatives of the Centre Region Parks and Rec to review the First Cast program on September 28.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Eberhart
Secretary

(These minutes were approved as corrected at the Board meeting of October 18, 2010.)

Facebook page offers unique content

The SCTU Facebook page is off to a slow start with only 18 folks following it. The rest of you are missing out!

The information posted on our Facebook page is generally unique and not printed here in the newsletter.

For instance, this week, there is a link to an interesting PFBC biologist report on

the Little J. Check it out at facebook.com.

