

Tertiary Treatment

The Newsletter of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

February-March, 2011

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Annual Spring Banquet coming up April 2!

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its Annual Spring Banquet Saturday, April 2 at the Ramada Inn, State College.

Enjoyed each year by TU members and non-members alike, the banquet features a silent auction, bucket raffles, 52 card draws, a 50/50 and a live auction.

While many auction and raffle items are fishing-related, a host of merchandise and services from a variety of Centre County businesses will be included.

Proceeds are used to fund local conservation projects including the chap-

ter's extensive work to restore and protect Spring Creek.

Reservation forms are available at

springcreektu.org. For more information, contact Jim Purtell at 814-383-0166 or jmp@goh-inc.com.

Contributions needed for raffles, auctions

Our banquet committee is looking for contributions from the membership for items to be raffled or auctioned at the upcoming banquet.

Needed are:

- Gift certificates or items of value from local businesses.
- Flies for a "Fly Log, a hunk of driftwood flotsam festooned with

flies from many members of our chapter.

- Fly-tying materials to be included in a raffle.
- Fishing-related gear, books and other items.

Don't forget, the banquet is the means to pay for our conservation work on Spring Creek! Dig deep!



STEELHEAD SCHOOL... Barry S. Eckwahl drew 50 or so SCCTU members Feb. 3 when he presented, "Steelhead Solitude: Techniques to Avoid Crowds and Catch More Steelhead, Including Places to Go, Rod Set Up, and Favorite Flies." The owner of A Perfect Drift Outfitters guide service, Eckwahl guides anglers in New York and Ohio.



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Founded in 1973, the 350-member Spring Creek Chapter of TU seeks to conserve, protect, and restore Spring Creek's coldwater fishery and watershed.

Officers

Judi Sittler, President
jlsittler@comcast.net

Bob Eberhart, Secretary
rje1@psu.edu

Rick Van Horn, Treasurer
rickvanhorn@hotmail.com

Chris Haser, Vice President
brookiebrown@comcast.net

Members

William Brusse
wcbusse@gmail.com

Scott Brumbaugh
sjb206@psu.edu

Bob Vierck
bob@vierck.com

Bob Donaldson
rbdonald@comcast.net

Jim Purtell
jmp@goh-inc.com

Chris Hennessey
c.hennessey@comcast.net

Board a good mix of old and new

On February 1, 1973, the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited was formed. A set of bylaws were adopted, a board of directors was nominated and elected, and the chapter was on its way to upholding the TU mission to conserve, protect, and restore Spring Creek. Today, 38 years later, we continue to be committed to the TU mission.

The current SCCTU board of directors is re-writing the by-laws which were last amended in 2003. Our bylaws will conform to the National TU template yet be specific to our chapter's needs. When you read the 2003 bylaws, you realize how, in only seven or eight years, technology has changed our way of doing business. For example, paper mail verses e-mail, checks verses charge cards and different record keeping practices. These changes

and many other issues require thoughtful consideration.

I am proud to be a member of this board because they are all very thoughtful and take their job seriously. We have a good mix of seasoned TU members who know the history on most issues and newer members who bring a fresh view to an issue.

The 'new guys' have good, thought provoking questions that make everyone rethink something that might have gone unnoticed. The seasoned members give a stabilizing perspective that allows everyone to see the big picture. This month our 'History 101' newsletter article gives you an excerpt from the 'Brief History of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited' on the formation of the Spring Creek Chapter.

Let it be an inspiration to

Looking Upstream

By Judi Sittler,
SCTU President



all of you who want to take an active part in preserving our coldwater fishery.

Most of us know that Joe Humphreys was very instrumental in establishing this chapter. Anyone who has ever talked to Joe about protecting Spring Creek and its tributaries knows how passionate he is about this stream.

I consider that level of passion to be the board's yardstick for the work we do.

See **History 101** on **page 5** for the story of the chapter's formation.

Meeting Schedule

New TU Field Organizer to discuss Marcellus Play
April 7, 7:30 p.m.,
Comfort Suites
State College

Join SCCTU and David Sewak, Trout Unlimited Pennsylvania Marcellus Shale Field Organizer, for his presentation, "Marcellus Play in PA and the Coldwater Conservation Corps."

A newcomer to TU, Sewak is part of an initiative to educate, organize and mobilize the common-

wealth's sportsmen and women. Before coming to TU he was the manager of the Fly Fishing Shows for four years.

Prior to his foray into the business world, he worked for 12 years in the conservation realm, focusing on Abandoned Mine Drainage, recreational trail development (both land and water trails), river conservation planning, community parks, and tourism.

An avid outdoorsman, Sewak serves on the SCRIP (Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement) board;

volunteers for Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited (maintaining the website and electronic correspondence) and is also a Somerset Conservation District board member.

Join us at a Board Meeting

All members are invited to attend the monthly meetings of the board of directors. Board meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Monday following the regular membership meeting at the Comfort Suites in State College.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 17, 2011

**Board of Directors
Spring Creek Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
Meeting of
January 17, 2011,
7 p.m.
Comfort Inn Suites,
State College, PA.**

Board Members present:

Judi Sittler, Rick Van Horn, Chris Hennessey, Bob Donaldson, Chris Haser, Bill Brusse, Scott Brumbaugh, Bob Vierck and Bob Eberhart.

Approval of Minutes:

After several editorial corrections were made, the draft minutes of the Board meeting of December 13 were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Rick Van Horn reported that as of December 31, the net worth of the Chapter was \$30,236. This amount does not include additional grant funds that are held in separate accounts and must be spent on Habitat projects. Rick also reported that a Chapter member had donated \$1000 to the Chapter. The Treasurer's Report was approved as submitted.

Election of Officers for 2011:

The Chapter officers for 2010 were reelected to serve in 2011. The officers for 2011 are:

President: Judi Sittler
VP: Chris Haser
Treasurer: Rick Van Horn
Secretary: Bob Eberhart

Committee Chairs for 2011:

Communications: Chris Hennessey
Membership: Chris Haser
Membership Meeting Coordinator: Allen Phillips
Education /Youth: Open
Conservation: Bill Brusse
Banquet: Jim Purtell
Financial Development : Open

Old Business

Revision of Chapter By-Laws:

The 2-9-11 draft revision of the Chapter Bylaws was reviewed. Several changes were suggested and agreed upon. Important points yet to be decided are: a) whether to include 'Spring Creek' in the Chapter's mission statement 'The purpose of the Chapter shall be to conserve, protect and restore Spring Creek's cold-water fishery and watershed.î; some felt that including the name might geographically limit the activities of the Chapter; b) how to limit the use of credit cards by members who have them to conduct Chapter business; and c) wording of the section on dissolution of the Chapter in a way that will permit the Board to determine how the

Chapter's assets would be distributed should the Chapter be dissolved.

Easements held by Chapter:

Bill Brusse has been unable to contact Mark Faulkner to get a legal opinion on the amount of liability to which the Chapter is exposed by holding these easements. It was suggested that Jim Strouse, who was President of the Chapter when these easements were acquired, should be invited to a Board meeting to present his view on why the Chapter chose to hold these easements in the first place.

PATU's White Paper on Marcellus Shale Drilling:

Bob Donaldson had prepared a presentation on PATU's paper on this subject, but the Board, feeling that this topic would require lengthy discussion, agreed to hold a special Board meeting on January 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Clearwater Conservancy to consider this issue. Judi Sittler reported that at the Chapter's April Membership Meeting the speaker will be Dave Sewack, National TU's Marcellus Shale Field Organizer.

New Business

FIPS-Mouche Men's

Regional Flyfishing Competition:

The Chapter has received a request from the organizers of a Regional Flyfishing Competition for funds to rent a Porta-Potty for use at the McCoy dam site at this year's event. The Board chose not to honor this request.

Committee Reports

Banquet: Jim Purtell reported that the Banquet Committee has begun meeting in preparation for the Chapter's April 2 banquet.

Communications: Chris Hennessey reported that the U.S. Youth Flyfishing Team will hold three clinics in preparation for this year's Team try outs and has asked the Chapter to help publicize these events. He also reported that this year's Centre Region Parks and Recreation/Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Youth Fly Fishing for Trout Camp will be held July 18-22 and July 25-29.

The meeting adjourned at about 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Eberhart
Secretary

**These minutes were
approved as amended at
the SCCTU Board of
Directors meeting of
February 14, 2011.**

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES: January 18, 2011

**Board of Directors
Spring Creek Chapter
of Trout Unlimited
Special Meeting of
January 18, 2011, 7 p.m.
ClearWater Conservancy
State College, PA.**

Board Members present:

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

Goals of the Meeting:

1. To review information on Marcellus shale drilling, especially on the potential environmental impacts.
2. To review PATU's white paper on Marcellus shale drilling and consider whether the Chapter should formally support PATU's position.
3. To consider potential impacts of Marcellus shale drilling on the surface and ground waters of the Spring Creek Watershed
4. To consider possible actions.
5. To consider responses to members who expressed concerns to the Board and to consider how to inform the Chapter membership of any position or action taken.

Concerns of members:

Judi Sittler read to the Board emails from three Chapter members expressing concerns about various aspects of Marcellus drilling.

Review of Marcellus drilling and its impacts from a state-wide perspective:

Bob Donaldson began by pointing out that society demands much energy, that there is little chance that Marcellus drilling can be stopped, and that the best approach is to try to minimize its undesirable impacts. Following the outline of the PATU white paper, he described the problems that might arise and reviewed briefly the recommendations laid out

in the white paper. After discussion, Bob moved that the Chapter endorse and support the findings and recommendations of the white paper. Bill Brusse seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Judi Sittler will inform PATU Secretary, Bob Pennell, of the Chapter's endorsement of the white paper. Chris Hennessey will announce the action to the membership via the Chapter's Listserv and will provide a link to PATU's white paper. The action will also be posted on the Chapter's website along with the text of the white paper. The Chapter's position will also be conveyed to local legislators State Senator Jake Corman, State Representatives Scott Conklin, Mike Hannah and Kerry Benninghoff and to Congressman Glenn Thompson.

Potential impacts of Marcellus drilling on ground and surface waters of the Spring Creek watershed: Some Chapter members have expressed concern that removal of water from the watershed to be used in hydrofracking in Marcellus shale at sites outside the watershed might significantly affect groundwater levels in the watershed and stream flow in Spring Creek.

There was also concern that Beneficial Reuse water produced at the UAJA treatment plant and mostly intended for pumping to upstream recharge sites was being considered for sale to drillers.

Bob Donaldson had received data from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), the agency that regulates water withdrawals, showing that two drilling companies had purchased water from the Bellefonte municipal water system, but the format of the data made it difficult to determine just how much water had been removed.

Bob also reported that although UAJA had obtained a permit for sale

of Beneficial Reuse water, no purchases had been made and the permit expired. Bill Brusse felt that the volume of water actually being removed is small and probably does not have a significant impact on groundwater or stream flow. The consensus position of the Board was that we should closely follow the volume of water being removed from the watershed by Marcellus drillers. It was suggested that the Chapter should request a presentation on this issue from the SRBC.

Coldwater Conservation Corps:

Chris Hennessey provided information on the PATU Coldwater Conservation Corps (CCC), a program to monitor water resources, conduct visual assessments, and report violations of state environmental laws to appropriate state agencies.

CCC volunteers provide an extra set of eyes and ears on the ground, ensuring that special watersheds and coldwater resources are protected from the threats of environmental degradation.

Partnering with other environmental groups: Scott Brumbaugh suggested that the Chapter might work with other groups to achieve effective regulation of Marcellus drilling, perhaps by preparing a common position statement.

Bob Donaldson will contact ClearWater and Bob Eberhart will contact the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club to determine their interest in this approach.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Eberhart
Secretary

These minutes were approved as amended at the SCCTU Board of Directors meeting of February 14, 2011.

News In Brief

US Youth Fly Fishing Team has upcoming events

The US Youth Fly Fishing Team will have several events in 2011. These events are for young angler between the ages of 14 -18 who are versed in fly fishing. There are four clinics this year nationwide: Pennsylvania, May 5 ñ 8; North Carolina, April 2 -3; Utah, date pending; Colorado May 14 ñ 15. After participating in a clinic, you are eligible to try out for the 2012 US Youth Fly Fishing Team at the US National Youth Championship, which will be held in Pennsylvania June 21-23, 2011.

Please check the website for applications and more information <http://usyouth-flyfishingteam.com/> The application deadline for the Championship is May 15th 2011.

Benner Township to host meeting on Spring Creek Canyon proposals

Benner Township will host a public presentation of two proposed parking lots and a partial trail designation within the Spring Creek Canyon Cooperative Management Area March 16 at 7 p.m. in Room 208 at the Penn Stater Conference Center, 215 Innovation Blvd., State College. The presentation will be followed by a public review and comment opportunity.

Grant to benefit Spring Creek headwaters

ClearWater Conservancy has been awarded a state DEP Growing Greener Grant for \$37,778 to improve water quality in the headwaters of Spring Creek by reconstructing a section of Sharer Road in Harris Township susceptible to washing out during high

water and adding sediment and gravel to the creek.

The section of road that intersects the creek has been redesigned by the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies at Penn State University to withstand high water without washing out or adding sediment to the creek.

Riparian buffers plantings will be installed upstream and downstream of Sharer Road through cooperation with the adjoining Oelbermann and Nittany farms to further protect the waterway.

Maryland set to ban felt soles in all state waters

Maryland is set to be the first state to flat-out ban felt soles on fishing boots or waders in all state waters according to a post on the Maryland DCNR website. The agency says the measure is an effort to

stop the spread of didymo, or rock snot.

“Resource managers in North America and New Zealand suspected early on that the felt-soled waders and boots of traveling fly fishermen were the pathway for its spread. Subsequent field and laboratory research has confirmed that the felt used for waders is an ideal medium for collecting and transporting microscopic organisms,” Maryland DCNR says.

DNR scientists and anglers have found infestations of Didymo in the Gunpowder River and in the Savage River.

Similar measures are being considered in Alaska, Vermont, Oregon, Maine and Montana.

See the full article at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/news/story.asp?story_id=120.

History 101: Formation of our chapter

Excerpted from "A Brief History of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited" by Frank Zettle

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited came into being with the adoption of a set of bylaws at a meeting held in the Panorama Grade School in Boalsburg on February 1, 1973. Forming a Centre County chapter had been considered for some time by local members of the Penns Creek Chapter who lived in Centre County but traveled over the mountains for meetings in the Lewistown area. At an earlier meeting at Joe Humphreys' home, the group decided to call a public meeting to see if there was sufficient interest to organize a TU chapter.

The public meeting was held at the Panorama Grade School on January 25. Gene Brown, president of the Penns Creek Chapter, chaired the meeting and explained the history and function of the national organization, how a local chapter would relate to it, and how a chapter could be organized. After some discussion there was general agreement to form a chapter. Paul Solley made a motion to prepare a set of bylaws; it passed. The Penns Creek Chapter's bylaws would be used as a model. Joe Humphreys moved that the chapter be named the Spring Creek Chapter. Other names were discussed: Central Chapter, Central Penn Chapter, Centre County Chapter and Mt. Nittany Chapter. Todd Bowersox moved that an organi-

zational committee be formed with Joe Humphreys as chairman; it passed. Joe asked that all interested people give him their telephone numbers and said that he would meet with this group before the next meeting scheduled for February 1.

The following names were put in nomination and elected as officers: Joe Humphreys, President; Paul Blankenhorn, 1st Vice President; Todd Bowersox, 2nd Vice President; Vance McCullough, Secretary; James McLaren, Treasurer;

Nominated and elected as board members were: Tom Schrenkel, 1 year term; Charles Getting, 1 year term; Bob McMullin, 2 year term; Charles Piper, 2 year term; Dick Barton, 3 year term; Ron Johnson, 3 year term.