

Tertiary Treatment

The Newsletter of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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HOLIDAY PARTY A HIT...

Spring Creek TU members and their families gathered for the 2010 Holiday Party Dec. 10. at the home of past-President Bill Brusse. The follow-up report was that a good time was had by all.

Above: Rick Van Horn and Bill Brusse share angling secrets.

Right: Al Phillips, Bill Palmer and George Moellenbrock conduct some "water quality testing."



2010 a very busy year for SCCTU

Looking Upstream

By Judi Sittler,
SCTU President



I would like to start this "Looking Upstream" column by "looking downstream." Our Spring Creek chapter had a very productive year. We completed the huge, three-year habitat project that covered Fisherman's Paradise, the PSU Sheep Farm area, the "550" area, Mc Coy Dam, and Spring Creek Park.

This work got done because of a lot of volunteer hours spent identifying the areas of need, writing the grant applications -of which there were many- and coordinating a ton of materials, work schedules, and volunteer workers.

I am compelled to name names of those I know, who were very instrumental in getting all the grant money pulled together for such a big project, for organizing all the work and materials, and for coordinating the volunteers needed for the job. You

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A thanks to the outgoing members of our board.

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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.

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SCCTU accomplished much in 2010

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can let me know who I missed and I'll be happy to print an addendum. Here goes: Joe Boston, Bob Hazelton, Bill Brusse, Cliff Wurster, Art Kemf, Chris Haser. Fish & Boat guys: Jason Detar, Dave Keller, Carl Lutz, Jon Thomas. Clearwater Conservancy, in particular, Katie Ombalski.

The other huge issue which took a lot of the board's time over several years was The Canyon, or the divestment of the Rockview State property. Although the outcome might not be ideal to many, it has been resolved and everyone can move on. Thank you to the many members of our chapter who spent untold hours studying the issue and giving their input towards a compromise agreement which is ultimately good for the stream that we pledge to protect. Our next big concern is the Marcellus Shale drilling and the water being used and disposed of for that business.

The past year saw the continued success of the "Trout Fly Fishing Camp for Youth" co-sponsored by our chapter and Centre Region Parks & Recreation. For 2011, the title for this summer camp will be changed to better reflect that co-sponsorship. The new title will be "CRPR & SCCTU Youth Trout Fly Fishing Camp." We also plan to add more conservation and stream ethics activities. The schedule



HABITAT WORK... TU members and volunteers work on stream improvements at Fisherman's Paradise in July. 2010 saw the end of a three-year, \$500K-plus habitat improvement project on Spring Creek.

will be published early and adhered to, so that volunteers can plan to assist on specific days. We also plan to give each child a Trout Unlimited Stream Explorer's membership for one year. We want to "catch them early!"

Looking upstream, I would like to see our chapter develop more ways to get the youth of this community involved in Trout Unlimited activities. That can mean the elementary age children

through high school, and let's not forget Penn State students. I welcome our membership to approach any of the board members with ideas. While we are at it, let's see if we can't get a few more women and girls involved in our chapter. I purposefully said chapter

and not fly fishing because we are a conservation organization. Not everyone has to be a fisherman or woman to join.

In 2010, we closed the books on two big areas of attention. We can start 2011 with renewed energy,

ready to pay closer attention to our organization. We will be revisiting our by-laws using the new National TU template for guidance. We can focus more on our membership by welcoming each new member

that joins, soliciting ideas from members, and recruiting new members. We can strive to double our efforts to raise funds to continue the Spring Creek Chapter of TU mission to "...conserve, protect and restore Spring Creek's coldwater fishery and watershed."

"... I would like to see our chapter develop more ways to get the youth of this community involved."

BOARD MEETING MINUTES: November 15, 2010

Board of Directors
Spring Creek Chapter of
Trout Unlimited
Meeting of November 15,
2010, 7 p.m.
Comfort Inn Suites, State
College, PA.

Board Members present:

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

Approval of Minutes:

The draft minutes of the Board meeting of October 18 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Rick Van Horn reported that as of October 31, the net worth of the Chapter was \$30,162. This amount does not include additional grant funds that are held in separate accounts and must be spent on Habitat projects. The Treasurers Report was approved as submitted.

Old Business:

Progress on memorials:
 Bob Donaldson reported that Katie Ombalski is trying to get a PFBC representative to meet with the Memorial Committee to discuss the sites and types of memorials that might be developed for Tony Gerace and George Harvey.

Proposed Habitat
 Improvements
 in Oak Hall area:

Bob Donaldson reported that a field study of Spring Creek and Cedar Run as they pass through the Dave

Carson, Stan Smith, Joe Humphreys properties and a public park in the Oak Hall area has been completed and a preliminary report has been received from Josh Lincoln of Wetlands Habitat Management. Some grant funds, possibly an Embrace-A-Stream grant, will be needed to proceed with this work.

Duck Pond Plaque:

Judi Sittler will follow up on the efforts to locate the plaque that commemorated the separation of Thompson Run from the Duck Pond.

Access easements held by the Chapter along Spring Creek:

National TU is recommending that because of liability issues associated with access easements, Chapters that hold such easements should consider getting rid of them.

Our Chapter holds two such easements along Spring Creek, one along Houserville Road just downstream from the bridge on Benner Pike and the other along the creek where Buffalo Run enters it just below Bellefonte.

There was discussion about the pros and cons of holding the easements to continue to provide access.

Although the documents establishing these easements are available, the boundaries of the easements are not clear. Rick Van Horn said that he would try to get more information from the Court House.

New Business:

Nominating Committee:

President Judi Sittler recommended appointment of a Committee to identify nominees to fill Board of Directors positions that will be opening. She recommended that the Committee be comprised of Allen Phillips, Mark Pencak and Judi herself. The Board approved the recommended membership. The Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominees to the Board at its December meeting. After Board approval, the slate will be presented to the Chapter membership at the Annual Meeting in January of 2011.

**Review of
 Chapter By-Laws:**

President Sittler led a review of a draft revision of the Chapter By-Laws. The draft is based on a model document prepared by National TU and was developed by a committee that included Judi, Chris Haser and Bob Eberhart. Changes to the draft suggested by the Board will be included in a second draft that will be considered at the next Board meeting.

**The Chapter's Mission
 Statement:**

The Board specifically modified and adopted the first sentence of Article I, Section 2 of the revised By-Laws as the Chapters Mission Statement. That sentence will now read: "The purpose of the Chapter shall be to conserve, protect and restore Spring Creeks

coldwater fishery and watershed."

Pennsylvania TU

Policy on Drilling in the Marcellus Shale:

Bob Donaldson led a discussion of whether our Chapter should take a formal position on the issue of drilling (or fracking) for natural gas in Marcellus Shale. Bob believes that, although this activity does not pose an immediate threat to the Spring Creek Watershed, it could have harmful effects on other coldwater streams in Pennsylvania and neighboring states. Bob distributed copies of a White Paper on this subject prepared by PATU.

He believes that this document presents a good overview of the potential effects of the drilling activity. He believes that the Chapter should consider taking a formal position on this issue. He asked that Board members read the White Paper and that the issue be placed on the next Board meeting agenda.

**2011 Rivers Conservation
 and Fly Fishing
 Youth Camp:**

Judi Sittler spoke about this camp and said that the Chapter should encourage someone (age 14-17) to attend. The purpose of the Camp is to educate students on the importance of coldwater conservation.

Future Stream Projects:

Future projects suggested by Chapter members Bill

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES: November 15, 2010

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and Jim Voigt were discussed. They included a trail from the Benner Springs Hatchery upstream to the iron bridge.

Vacancy on Board of Directors of Centre County Conservation District:

There was discussion about whether the Chapter should encourage some qualified member of the Chapter to seek to fill a vacancy on the Board of the Centre County Conservation District.

Committee Reports:

Financial Development:

Jim Purtell reported that he is beginning to plan for next year's banquet, and that the Banquet Committee will begin meeting in January.

Communications:

Chris Hennessey reported that College and Ferguson Townships had

requested stories and photos that appeared in the September Newsletter about TU members stenciling "Inlet Discharges to Spring Creek" on curbs adjacent to storm water drains in several developments. Both townships planned to run the story and the photos in their newsletters to draw attention to the program which the townships sponsor.

Membership:

Chris Haser reported that addition of seven new Chapter members had increased total membership to 357. He suggested that Board members should increase their efforts to encourage new memberships.

Education/Youth:

Ron Shealer (not present at the meeting) had informed President Sittler that he has been in touch with Kurt Engstrom at Our Lady of Victory School about a possible Trout in the Classroom project there.

Ana Butler, a teacher there, has some interest in leading the project.

Chris Hennessey reported that he and Judi Sittler had met with Molly Hetrick of Centre Region Parks and Recreation to discuss the First Cast program.

The new name of the program will be "CRPR/SCCTU Youth Fly Fishing Camp". Among other innovations, there will be more emphasis on stream conservation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Eberhart
Secretary

(These minutes were approved as amended by the Board of Directors at their meeting December 13, 2010).

Meeting Schedule

Centerpinning for trout and steelhead

Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.,
Comfort Suites, State
College

Lance Wilt, a guide with the local Spruce Creek Fly Company, will offer up "Centerpinning for Trout and Steelhead Using Fly Tackle."

A full-time fly fishing guide, instructor and travel agent working in Pennsylvania, Montana and the Patagonia region of Chile, Wilt is a certified FFF Casting Instructor and a coach for the United States Youth Fly Fishing

team.

In addition, his articles and photographs appear in a number of fly fishing publications in print and online.

George Daniel on European nymphing tactics

Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Comfort Suites, State College

George Daniel, of TCO Fly Shop, will give a presentation titled "Understanding and Implementing European Nymphing Tactics". An angler since the age of 6, Daniel is the assistant

manager and director of education at the State College TCO shop. George's passion is conducting educational classes for TCO and traveling the country conducting clinics for various groups and organizations. Daniel is also active with the U.S. Fly Fishing Team.

Eckwahl to present overview of steelhead fishing

March 3, 7:30 p.m.,
Boalsburg Fire Hall,
Boalsburg

Barry S. Eckwahl will present, "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.

Barry is a graduate of the Syracuse College of Forestry, a member of the Regal Vise pro staff and a Mystic Fly Rod pro guide.

The March meeting will be held at the Boalsburg Fire Hall in Boalsburg, between US Route 322 and Main Street, a block off Church Street.

A heartfelt thanks to our outgoing board members

Our sincere thanks to those board members who are stepping down in 2010.

Dick Stevenson gave us tireless service coordinating the banquet for the past six years. All of you who have been to the banquet know how organized and well run an event it has been. That has all been due to his efforts and his ability to get everybody working together. He may be stepping down from a board position but he has offered to stay involved from the sidelines. You better believe that we'll take him up on that offer.

Jay Lynch is also stepping down, and he has volunteered to keep his 'seat' on the Steak Fry commit-



Ron Shealer works with a student in his Trout in the Classroom project.

tee. Jay brought a scientist's eye to issues of importance. He always questioned the data or the reasoning behind a decision.

Ron Shealer is also going to stay in close contact with the board even though he has stepped



Jay Lynch mans the grill at the 2010 Steak Fry.

down because of a heavy teaching schedule and other "irons in the fire." Ron will be our point man for the "Trout in the Classroom" program. Currently, he is the only teacher under our chapter's sponsorship who raises brook trout in his middle



Dick Stevenson works the room at the 2010 banquet.

school classroom, then releases them in a stream approved by Fish & Boat. He is actively recruiting other teachers to take on this project so that we can get more children involved in the appreciation of trout habitat and the conservation of that habitat.

Elections to be held at Jan. 6 membership meeting

The Board of Directors election will be held at the Jan. 6 general meeting. The nominating committee formed in late 2010 to accept advance nominations and has identified SCCTU members Scott Brumbaugh and Bob Vierck as nominees for open seats. Incumbents Bill Brusse, Bob Eberhart and Rick Van Horn will stand for re-election.

Two seats remain open on the 12-member board. Additional nominations from the floor can be made at the Jan. 6 meeting.

If you would like to serve on the board or learn more about board service, please contact a member of the nominating committee. Committee members are Judi Sittler (jlsittler@comcast.net), Mark Pencak (tapandpence@aol.com) and Al Phillips (atp@psu.edu).

Get Involved!

Below are some upcoming SCCTU activities and volunteer opportunities:

- Trout in the Classroom. We will be looking for funding sources to establish a second teacher with the equipment needed to raise trout from eggs in the classroom.
- Banquet Committee. Members are needed to help plan and execute the 2011 Banquet.
- Board Members. As of now we have two open seats. Get involved in local conservation by taking a seat- a board seat!
- Contribute to the newsletter by writing a story or sharing a description of your favorite fishing technique.

*Email Judi Sittler for more info.
on the above opportunities.*