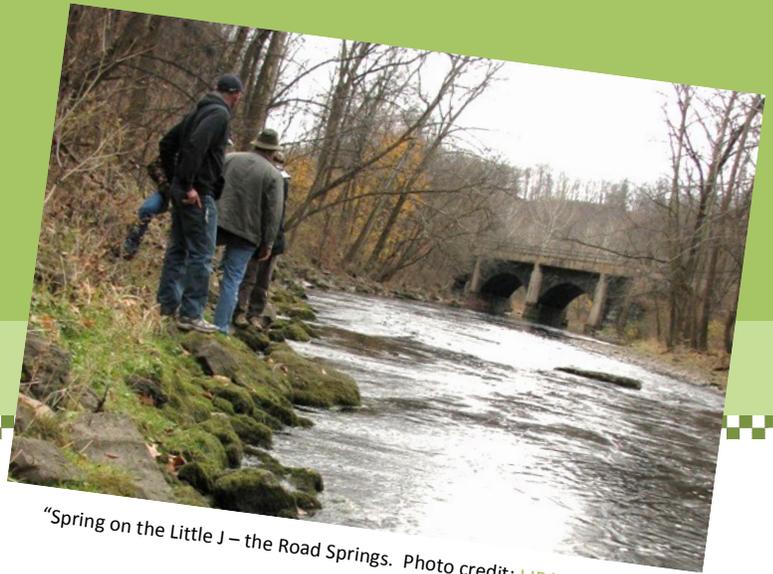


Spring Creek Watershed Association

APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A report of the SCWA meeting, special presentations, watershed-based activities, and partnership work underway

April 16, 2013



"Spring on the Little J – the Road Springs. Photo credit: LJRA

From the Partnership SCWA members and organizations reported these upcoming events and opportunities:

- Apr 17 [Spring Creek Watershed Commission Meeting](#) – Presentation on current water elevations and status.
- Apr 20 [Watershed Clean-up Day](#)
- May 5 Opening reception and stream-focused art activities - Bellefonte Art Museum & conservation partners featuring "*Water ways – a Celebration of Nature*": Paintings by Alice Kelsey & Jeanne McKinney.
- May 21 [Spring Creek Watershed Association](#) meets – Patton Township building. Please come to help us discuss strategies for fulfilling our mission!

Guest speaker Bill Anderson presents the Little Juniata River Association

Bill Anderson, President of the [Little Juniata River Association](#), presented an outstanding program to the Spring Creek Watershed Association that highlighted the work it has underway to protect and improve the Little Juniata and its tributaries especially in respect to public access, stream bank restoration, and riparian buffer improvements. A recording of the presentation can be viewed at: [SCWA Apr 16 Meeting Featuring the Little J](#)

The take-home message from the presentation includes that the LJRA has elevated the Little J and its tributaries to HQ (high quality) status from a series of pollution events that occurred throughout the 19th and 20th centuries that had earlier deemed many of the waterways as biologically "dead". They now sustain healthy trout fisheries that ensure public access for fishing and other recreational activities. The work has been conducted in partnership with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and a strong base of volunteers – including several from the Spring Creek Watershed.

Do you like this format for reporting the SCWA meeting highlights?

As a means to improve monthly communications of the Spring Creek Watershed Association's meeting activities and partner-led opportunities, we propose to provide SCWA members a write-up in a newsletter brief like this. Our hope is that you will read it, visit the links, and share the information with co-workers, neighbors, and other interested community members. Your opinion is invited! Visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCWAmeeting>

SCWA Business Highlights

Next Meeting of the SCWA The May 21 meeting of the SCWA will be devoted to reviewing past strategies for fulfilling its mission and a proposal to invite the Spring Creek Watershed Commission to co-convene a joint meeting with the SCWA and possibly other water-conservation interests to identify opportunities and needs for future work and focus. The presentation originally scheduled for the May meeting by Ann Donovan, Centre Co Conservation District, focusing on watershed initiatives across the County will take place at the June 18 SCWA meeting instead.

Centre Region and Onlot Sewage Reg Changes DEP Technical Guidance on the Sewage Planning Manual – onlot sewage systems onlot sewage regulation change is requiring a series of BMPs and scoring for new or replaced onlot (septic) systems. Dennis Hameister, Chair, Spring Creek Watershed Commission, announced that a meeting for

public officials to learn more would take place on Fri, Apr 19 – 1:30 to 3:30 PM on the topic at the CR COG offices. Distance from HQ/EV streams, riparian buffers, permeable/reactive barriers, and denitrification technology are expected practices for new/replaced systems.

Centre Co Conservation District (CCCD) is conducting an extensive educational program with youth at Black Moshannon this week as a part of the joint Centre/Clearfield Source Water Protection WREN grant.

Exploring Natural Beauty, Conservation and Recreation Ann Donovan, CCCD invited all to participate in the May-Jun-Jul offerings by [Bellefonte Art Museum](#) featuring stream art, fishing lectures, and Spring Creek walks and receptions.

Grace Lutheran Church Green Team has was reported by Barb Fisher to have conducted outreach

to interfaith groups about improved sustainability and effectiveness – as well as helping ClearWater in hosting the Watershed Cleanup Day volunteer picnic at Spring Creek Park.

Growing Greener I request for proposals will focus on pollution reduction in the Chesapeake Bay, streambank stabilization with a habitat priority, and sediment reduction through the Dirt & Gravel Roads program. Near the Spring Creek – Halfmoon Spring (a tributary to Spruce Creek) and Penns Creek have been identified by DEP Watershed Manager Jason Fellon as priorities. ClearWater, LJRA, CCCD, and PSU all have interest and efforts underway in Halfmoon Creek.

GardenStarters Bill Sharpe reported that he and Barb Fisher helped kick-off this sustainability initiative catalyzed project at MMNC, now four years old. Four beds have been planted.

SCWA April 2013 Meeting Participants

NOTE: Municipal references are to denote residency, not representation.

Bob Eberhart, Halfmoon Township

Jim Gazza, Patton Township

Jennifer Shuey, [ClearWater Conservancy](#)

Paul Bartley, Milesburg Borough and [Bald Eagle Watershed Association](#)

Dennis Hameister, Chair, [Spring Creek Watershed Commission](#)

Judi Sittler, President, [Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#)

Nick Schipanski, [ClearWater Conservancy](#)

Mike Schmidt

Bob Carline, Patton Township

Bill Sharp, College Township

Jason Fellon, PA DEP

Kent Addis, Mayor, Bellefonte

Bob Donaldson, Patton Township

Robert Vierck, State College and [Spring Creek Chapter of TU](#)

Ann Donovan, [Centre Co Conservation District](#)

Bill Anderson, [Little Juniata River Association](#)

Kristen Saacke Blunk, SCWA Chair, Patton Township

Meeting summary submitted by
KSaackeBlunk, 4/16/2013.

