



## News from the Spring Creek Chapter



### Results of Centre Gives



Chapter members and friends donated a total of .... via Centre Gives. This year, we did not win a challenge, but we raised a total of \$3690.

The Gristmills of the Spring Creek Watershed  
April 26, 2019 Robert McLaughlin, Howard, PA

The early economy of central Pennsylvania was closely tied to harnessing flowing water to power mills and forges. Gristmills, the focus of this report, use millstones to grind grain into flour that fed the people settling the Spring Creek Watershed. Even though the early industries, including flour milling, were very important to Centre County's inhabitants, little information about them remains. Perhaps these mills were taken for granted as they were replaced by more modern technology, and passed by with hardly a second glance. Or people were too busy trying to make a living to think about saving family or business records and documents and other information. Whatever the reason, there is very little information left to describe these water-powered grist mills, and what does remain is scattered about in many forms. Other industries were important to Centre County; describing the history of those is left to another person or time. Those interested in this type of industrial history are encouraged to use this work as a starting point for further research and study, because history is never really completely documented. There is always another bit of information that can be found which will change some interpretation of history.

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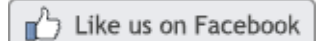
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#### Our Mission

*To conserve, protect and restore Spring Creek's coldwater fishery and watershed*



#### [Visit the Website!](#)

#### Member Meetings

Our normal meetings are on the first Thursday of the month, 7:30 pm with speakers on a variety of fishing and conservation subjects.

#### [Calendar of Events](#)

#### Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to all members. They are held at the State College Comfort Suites

#### Board of Directors

...[To read More Click Here](#)

This article published in the [Spring Creek Watershed Atlas](#).

### Get Outdoors Family Fishing Event

This year the SCCTU hosted the kick-off event for the Summer Get Outdoors Program- the Get Outdoors Family Fishing Event. The event was attended by more than 300 guests including nearly 250 children.



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Erosion/filtration perfect for Kissinger Meadow – By Judi Sittler published in Summer Edition of PATrout Magazine

# Erosion/filtration system perfect for sensitive watersheds

By Judy Sittler

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Sometimes the best partnerships come from a serendipitous encounter.

In March, I attended a PATU executive committee meeting. No expectations on my part. I just planned to give my Youth Ed. report and hear what the committee was doing.

A man named Joe Greco was there to give a National Leadership Council report regarding Trout Unlimited's Great Lakes Working Group. He also brought along information on his company's nationally-certified USDA Biopreferred product trade named Phalanx Bio Switch® Erosion/Filtration Medium.

This product is 100% hydrocarbon free, non-toxic and filled with specially manicured switchgrass supercharged with seed used to help build pollinator habitat. Phalanx Bio Switch® is designated as a highly qualified-exceptionally valued Pa. Department of Environmental Protection Statewide Approved Alternative Best Management Practice authorized to be placed in sensitive watersheds.

The product doesn't require trenching, is lightweight, has a wide ground contact surface and does not need to be removed because it decomposes naturally.

I sat up and paid attention. At the end of the meeting I got some more information and went home.

A few weeks later, I was having a breakfast meeting to talk about a pollinator plot on College Township property that Spring Creek TU is working on with the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During the meeting, I brought out the brochure from Greco's company BEG Group, LLC, which describes, in detail, the advantages of their switch family of products.

The pollinator plot we are working is on a hillside and the worry was keeping the seed from washing down before it can take hold. Light bulbs came on and yes, you guessed it, I sent out an e-mail to Greco, who is the President of BEG Group, LLC.

"Dear Joe," I said, "Our chapter is planting a pollinator plot on the Gordon D. Kissinger Meadow in State College, and we think your switchgrass filled silt sock would be perfect." (Did I mention the switchgrass can be infused with pollinator seeds?)

We scheduled a site visit and Joe drove to State College from Ohio and brought along Austin Kirk, owner of AK Environmental Consulting, to walk the property. Austin had a mobile application that could measure the meadow and determine the slope, etc. The three-acre plot has varied steepness. Austin also supplies a variety of seed mixes for these types of projects.

Long story short, Joe and Austin showed up on May 30 with six pallets of Bio Switch® erosion/filtration sock to guard the project's lower perimeter, one pallet of unvegetated Phalanx Bio Switch® sock to be used in the most sensitive area of the project and one pallet of 4-inch Phalanx Bio Switch® sock supercharged with pollinator mix. Austin's company designed the pollinator seed mix inside the Phalanx Bio Switch®.

BEG Group, LLC, AK Environmental Consulting and E-



Contributed Photos

The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited recently installed a naturally-decomposing erosion/filtration sock system as part of its "GDK Meadow" project. The system, developed by BEG Group, LLC, is a perfect solution for the challenges of planting pollinator habitat in sensitive watersheds.



Tube, BEG Group's sock supplier, sponsored the product for the G.D.K. Meadow Pollinator Habitat Project and Kirk supervised the placement and installation of the erosion/filtration sock. The installation was a breeze.

Why should we care about pollinators?

Pollinators provide *pollination services* for wild plants and many of our crop species – one in three bites of food is due to cross-pollination by pollinators.

Pollination is important for maintaining genetic diversity in plants and ensuring adequate fruit and seed production for crops, wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Our forests, prairies, meadows and gardens would look much different without the help of our pollinators. The intricacies of pollinator-environment interactions mean that we must take a broad approach to conserve pollinators. The above project is one modest campaign to weigh in on this very important topic.

For information on professional consultation and supplies aimed at building your own chapter's pollinator habitat project please feel free to reach out to BEG Group, LLC through its website contact page: [www.biosecurity.biz](http://www.biosecurity.biz).

[www.patrou.org](http://www.patrou.org)

PA TROUT ... Summer 2019

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## Trout Rd to Houserville bridge stabilization project

The last of three major projects, primarily funded by a \$160,700 National Fish and Wildlife grant, got off to a great start on August 23rd. This grant included funding for improvements to Rock Road above the Rock Rd. parking lot, pollinator gardens at the Gordon D. Kissinger Meadow and the Oak Hall Garden (just off Brush Rd past the Bridge), and habitat improvement and bank stabilization from above the Houserville Bridge downstream just past the Trout Road Bridge.

The project will take at least four weeks to complete. Work on it was delayed because of high water during the 2018 year and the federal government shut-down. The work is being done in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and includes partners from Habitat Forever, Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania, Pheasants Forever, Clearwater Conservancy, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

An front page article was published for this project in the October 10 issue of the Centre County Gazette. [Click here](#) to read.



Part of a 310 Foot Mudsill

## SCCTU Women Anglers

The Women Anglers had an outstanding day on September 29th fishing the Little Juniata with fly-fishing guide, Julie Szur. She donated her time to show us how to tie two flies on our line, gave us a quick lesson on how to cast two flies, and of course, how to read the water. Many of us caught fish using dry flies, some even landing them! Others had hits but did not set the hook in time. We all had fun fishing the Little J.



Women Anglers on the "J"



Cathy Alloway

### Robert Vierck awarded PATU Conservationist of 2019

Our very own Robert Vierck was awarded the PA Council of Trout Unlimited's Doc Friitchey Award as the Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, TU Member 2019 at the PATU annual meeting.

Bob has been our conservation leader for the past 10 years during which time we received two major grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

The first NFWF Grant for \$68,700 helped to fund eight sub-projects including Upper and Lower Milesburg, the "Boston Commons", Fisherman's Paradise (parking lots and structures), Rock Road Parking Lot, Deer Lane, and Oak Hall.

The second NFWF grant for \$160,700 helped to fund structures at the bend of Spring Creek above the Rock Road parking lot, the Kissinger Meadow pollinator plot, and the Houserville/Trout Road Bridge Project. The total value of these projects exceeded \$300,000.



Bob receiving award from Bob Pannel

The chapter was also awarded two grants for Sparrow Run near Port Maltida.

### SCCTU Receives Grants to work on Sparrow Run

The chapter received a grant of \$105,710 from the Hammer Foundation and \$9,000 from the Trout Unlimited "Embrace a Stream" program to improve the Eastern Brook Trout population while decreasing sedimentation through bank stabilization structures and habitat improvements on Sparrow Run. The Embrace A Stream grant was the highest rated grant awarded by Trout Unlimited for this year and came with a custom bamboo fly rod that will be a raffle prize for the 2020 Banquet

Sparrow Run is a headwater stream in Taylor Township, Centre County that flows into Bald Eagle Creek. This cold-water fishery is habitat for Eastern Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Due to poor land management practices, water quality has been actively degrading and fish habitat is now impaired. The 1800 feet of stream in the project area is adjacent to agricultural areas with significant nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution and inadequate overhead cover for wild trout. The objectives for this stream restoration and riparian buffer project are to improve water quality and increase habitat integrity by reducing bank erosion and sedimentation, mitigate nutrient input from agriculture and storm water runoff, and achieve IBI scores above the impairment threshold. Implementation of this project will improve Eastern Brook Trout habitat and improve water quality in a headwater stream.

Instream construction includes installation of 590 feet of mudsill and 470 feet of stone deflectors to provide trout cover, stabilize eroding banks and reduce sediment. Additional structures include random boulder clusters, log vanes which protect streambanks, redirect flow to the stream center and provide a plunge pool and rock cross vanes to maintain the stream's gradient bankfull bench, provide, critical pool habitat and narrow the stream to the correct bankfull width. In the 4.23 acres of riparian buffer, existing invasive exotic species will be eradicated and native species of trees and shrubs will be planted. Buffer management will moderate temperatures, reduce sediment inputs, provide important sources of organic matter, provide native insect habitat, and stabilize stream banks.



Example of bank erosion at Sparrow Run

## Upcoming

The last VSP Sunday fishing will be held on October 27 at Fisherman's Paradise at 1:00PM. The annual VSP indoor events will begin on Saturday, January 11th at 1:00PM located at the South Hills School of Business Technology. The program will include Fishing 101 and Fly Tying. A complete schedule will be forthcoming soon.

The Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Boalsburg Fire Hall on Wednesday December 11th. Save the date. More information will be coming soon.

The next general meeting on November 7th will feature an update on the Pennsylvania Coldwater Habitat program by Phil Thomas fly-tying by the Penn State Fly Fishing Club. The program will start at 7:30PM at

the Comfort Suites Hotel.

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, 299 Nimitz Avenue, State College, PA 16801

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