



# BIG SPRING WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

## Fall 2021 Newsletter

### Update from the President

by Mark Spicka

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. BSWA has remained busy this past spring and summer as we have pursued a number of ongoing projects.

We had a great turnout at our spring cleanup in April as 18 volunteers picked up 15 bags of trash, 3 tires, 4 hub caps, and 2 auto headlamps. Nice job everyone! Thank you also to West Pennsboro Twp. for providing the truck to haul the trash away. Linda Watson has been organizing our participation in Adopt-A-Highway along Big Spring Rd. for 15 years. Our fall stream cleanup is scheduled for October 9th and we welcome all participants.

Mary Blakeslee and her gardening crew continued to maintain the bird and pollinator garden at the PAFBC parking lot at Big Spring and Nealy Rds. The garden looks terrific and is wonderful habitat for birds, butterflies, and bees. This fall we will be placing more stones around the garden and begin erecting educational signage. The project is being funded by a Land Partnership Grant from Cumberland County.

Tom Smithwick is organizing our hosting of Project Healing Waters for late September. BSWA hosts wounded veterans for a day of fishing on the spring. We have been holding the event for over 10 years and a great time is had by all.

BSWA is partnering with the Cumberland County Master Watershed Steward Program to identify and eventually remove invasive plants such as purple loosestrife and poison hemlock along the spring.

Preliminary data from the PAFBC 2020 survey done in the upper reaches of the spring indicate an outstanding fish density of over 90kg/ha with brook trout outnumbering rainbow trout, although constituting less overall biomass.

Thank you to all the volunteers. Your tireless hours of work have made these accomplishments possible. If you have not already, please consider renewing your membership or making a donation to BSWA to the address listed below.



Volunteers are set to get to work at our spring cleanup in April.



The gardening crew after watering and weeding the bird and pollinator garden.

**BIG SPRING WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
PO BOX 52  
NEWVILLE, PA 17241

Website: <http://bigspringwatershed.blogspot.com/>  
Monthly Meetings: 2nd Thursday of every month at 7pm via Zoom.  
Contact Mark Spicka at [mespic@ship.edu](mailto:mespic@ship.edu) for more information.

### Upcoming Activities: Fall Stream Cleanup

We will be holding a cleanup along the spring on October 9, 2021 at 9:00am. We will meet at the headwaters. For more details, contact Linda Watson at [fishmorekane@gmail.com](mailto:fishmorekane@gmail.com).

### Birding Along Big Spring

BSWA birders have resumed leading bird walks on the first Saturday of each month. They meet at the headwaters at 7:30 am. Contact Bill Franz for more details at [wlfranz1@yahoo.com](mailto:wlfranz1@yahoo.com).



We had unexpected visitors to Big Spring this past July as a pair of Roseate Spoonbills spent a few days near Laughlin Mill. The bird is native to Florida and they may have been pushed north by a tropical storm. Thanks to Paul Dyarman for the photo.

### BSWA on Facebook

BSWA now has a Facebook page. Click on the Facebook logo below and like our page to get updates on our activities and projects.

