

White Clay Creek Preserve Environmental Education Programs, visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/whiteclaycreek.aspx> for more information

**WHITE CLAY CREEK PRESERVE
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

NEWS RELEASE

EARTH DAY EVENTS – SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2008

Saturday April 19th was a fantastically beautiful day to celebrate Earth Day with the temperature rising to the mid-80s and plenty of sunshine. Here at the White Clay Creek Preserve in PA we held two events; a Clean-up Day from 8:30 AM until 12:30 PM, and a Trout Fest which ran from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

The Clean-up even was coordinated with the greater Christina River Clean-up. We had 16 volunteers working to remove enough trash and debris to fill a 30 cubic yard dumpster. It was a job well done and much appreciated. The clean-up was organized by April and John Schmitt.

Also that day we had a crowd of 200-300 come out to participate in the Earth Day Trout Fest that ran from 10 AM to 2 PM. This event was the culmination of a year long project called “Trout in the Classroom” undertaken by the Avon Grove Charter School. The main event was the release of about 175 fingerling trout that had been raised from eggs to fingerlings in the classroom led by teacher Laura MacKelcan. Along with the trout release there were water quality demos and macro-invertebrate studies at streamside. Principal Dr. Kevin Brady also did a fly fishing demonstration.

At the Meeting House were fly tying and fly fishing demonstrations presented by the White Clay Creek Fly Fishers Organization. There was also a video presentation of the school project, two trout quilts were on display as well as a poster display.

Teacher Laura MacKelcan spearheaded the project; introducing this innovative approach to learning at the school. The project spanned grades 1 through 8 with MacKelcan’s 1st and 2nd graders raising the trout in their classroom. The 4th grade and 7th grade were also involved with studying macro-invertebrates and water quality testing. Photo included, more photos available.