

John Custer

CRC Board Member John Custer, Jr., Esq. is a business and estate planning attorney with an office in Newtown Square. He has been involved with CRC going back to the 1990s. "I must have at least a dozen CRC shirts from participating in the annual streams cleanups," he says. He joined the Board a few years ago.

John has been interested in the environment since early childhood, beginning with visits to his aunt's farm in Bucks County. "My parents were very accommodating, and an unused bathtub on the third floor of our house was constantly filled with frogs, turtles, snakes, fish and other critters," he says. "As I got older, I moved into birdwatching and volunteering for nonprofits." His expertise was known – whenever the Department of Environmental Protection was called about a bog turtle in Delaware County, they would refer that person to John for identification. For the past 10 years (except for the time of COVID), John has also taken groups into natural areas (including Willistown Township's Okehocking Preserve), to meditate while watching the sun set.

John's dedication to CRC is proven: At a CRC Streams Cleanup, John wanted to catch a bull frog in Crum Creek for a friend's pond, but it jumped when he reached for it and he hurt his back. Thinking nothing of it, John proceeded well down Crum Creek, picking up trash, until his back totally went out. "Here I was in the middle of nowhere, with nobody else around, and I could not move without the back spasming," he remembers. "But, I was able to fashion a branch into a crutch, and slowly inch my way upstream. The sacrifices I make for CRC!"

