

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Acres Added to PPL Wetland Conservation Easement

In March NPC filed an amendment to a 2008 conservation easement in Montour County. The amendment added 6.05 acres to the April 2008 conservation easement in Derry Township, Montour County on property owned by PPL bringing the total acreage under easement at this site to 108.96 acres.

The original conservation easement conserves a stretch of riparian buffer along Chillisquaque Creek and wetlands created as part of a mitigation project. Chillisquaque Creek is an agriculturally impaired stream that enters the West Branch Susquehanna River below Watsonstown. Several of the stream restoration projects Montour County Conservation District completed using NPC's Growing Greener grants have been on Chillisquaque Creek. The in-stream work combined with other practices will improve the water quality of the Creek.

The added acreage also contains a newly created mitigated wetland, as well as some naturally occurring wetlands. The wetland complex in this area is very functional. NPC's Land Protection Specialist, Charlie Schwarz, has photographed a variety of dragon flies and spiders at the site.

Staff Presents at Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference and the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association Conference

April was a busy month for NPC's staff. The Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference was April 4, 5, and 6 in State College. Charlie Schwarz, NPC's Land Protection Specialist, co-presented an all day mobile (in the classroom and in the forest) workshop on reading the forested landscape.

Working with Dr. Jim Finley from Penn State University, Charlie helped participants begin to think about how a forest reflects the impacts of human activities. Often, the difference between what you'd expect to find based on the site conditions and what you actually find can help you understand how an area has been used in the past.

Friday, Charlie and Renee' Carey, Executive Director, spent their day in a session on how shale gas development is impacting conservation. Charlie participated in panels on land trust experiences in working on leased property and a panel on how land trust policies have evolved to address new situations and concerns. Renee' facilitated the daylong session, which consisted of 5 panels.

The following week, Renee' returned to State College for the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association's conference. She presented as part of a workshop on how conservation easements and local land trusts can work with water authorities to implement source water protection plans.

Joining Renee' was Matt Marusiak with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Pat Bowling with DEP's source water program. Many water suppliers have developed source water protection plans to help guide them in maintaining and protecting their community drinking water supplies. Many plans examine how protecting the area used for ground water recharge and around wells can help maintain the quality of the water supply. Conservation easements are one tool that could be used to implement the plans and goals of protecting the water recharge and wellhead areas.



Conserving working farms and forests

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Liz Miele, executive chef of the Herdic House Restaurant, presents NPC Board Member Dick Penfield (right) and Celebrity Waiter Jerry Walls (left) with a check for the evening's proceeds

Celebrity Waiters Raise Land Protection Funds

If you dined at the Peter Herdic House Restaurant on March 15, you might have noticed things were a little crazy. Gloria and Liz were there. Their normal bartenders and staff were there. However, there were also some Celebrity Waiters and Bartenders taking orders, mixing drinks, and preparing salads table side.

Once again, NPC's volunteers stepped up and went to work memorizing specials, taking orders, serving dinners, making salads, mixing drinks, and singing (or not singing, depending on what the table wanted). Through the talents of the volunteers as well as a raffle and silent auction, over \$3,400 was raised!

THANK YOU TO:

Celebrity Waiters and Bartenders:

Brian Brooking (Woodlands Bank)

Jon Kohr (Old City Restoration)

Rick Mason (PennDOT)

Tony Nardi (Fish Real Estate)

Judge Tom Raup (Raup, Wiley and Sholder)

Jennifer Ruelens (Fish Real Estate Management)

Mark Shuman (Clear Channel Communications)

Jerry Walls (community planner)

Mary Zeitler (Fish Real Estate)

Greg Zeitler (community volunteer)

Gloria Miele and Jim Wood

for donating a dinner at their home

for the Silent Auction

(and to Liz Miele for agreeing to prepare said meal)

Yuki's Clothing and Accessories

for donating the designer handbag for the raffle

Conservation Easement Inspections Underway

At least once a year NPC's Land Protection Specialist, Charlie Schwarz, visits every property under conservation easement. His inspections allow NPC to verify the property is still being used for its conservation purposes and allow the current property owner to ask questions. These visits are the "meat" of NPC if you will. They are us upholding our conservation easement obligations.

Last year we began posting some of Charlie's photos and comments on NPC's Facebook page. Several people have commented that they enjoy these updates, so as space in the newsletter allows we'll make them a regular feature.

EASEMENT INSPECTION HIGHLIGHTS 2013

March 18, 2013 – Took another retired forester to examine the woodland on a conserved property where the landowner is primarily interested in wildlife habitat improvement. A management plan proposing an extensive timber sale had been written for the woodland and submitted to NPC for review and approval. As part of the review we compared what we saw with the recommendations in the plan. Although the plan was somewhat ambiguous, it seemed to call for cutting almost all of the large trees.

With snow on the ground we could easily see where deer had pawed through the snow and fallen leaves to feed on acorns. Cutting the larger trees, which are far from maturity, in this woodland would degrade its ability to provide high quality food for deer, turkey, bear, squirrels and other wildlife as well as its future capacity to grow higher value forest products.



MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY • January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Many thanks to our corporate members for their support of NPC's mission. Please take note of those businesses which have shown they care about the future of our communities with their corporate memberships and show them YOUR support.

AMERICAN KESTREL (\$500-\$749)

Woodlands Bank

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Pine Creek Outfitters

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Henry F. Hartmann Jr.

William & Kelly Hastings

William B. Heffner III

Stephen E. Jaquith

Rudy & Carol Kafer

Tiffani M. Kase, Esquire

Josephine Lewis

Marc & Diane Lewis

Lloyd Wilson Chapter 224

of Trout Unlimited

Loyalsock Creek

Watershed Association

Mr. & Mrs. James Meyer

Mark & Brenda Oberheim

Stuart & Judy Olinsky

Pine Creek Headwaters

Protection Group

Jack & Joann Rishel

Lance E. Robson

James C. Rogers

Annie Sanders

Stephen & Dorothy Schopfer

Henry & Ann Street

Dick & Carolee Thatcher

Jason & Chandra Weigle

RED OAK (\$50-\$99)

Peggy A. Ault

Ted & Tracey Barbour

George L. & Penny H. Bower

RED OAK (Continued)

Patty L. Bowman Esq.

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Egbert & Frances Hall

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Kent Knisley

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Charles & Margaret Wettling

Dr. Douglas Wion

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SUGAR MAPLE (\$35-\$49)

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Dennis & Holly Dusza

Joseph & Ginny English

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Dr. & Mrs. Mohamed

Khalequzzaman

Ken & Jane Light

Jon S. Malsnee

Charlotte Mengel

Susan O'Donnell

Sandy Rife

Armine Wodehouse

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorial for Barbara Harris
by Richard & Grace Carey

Memorial for Jim Hettler
by Richard & Grace Carey

Memorial for June Alsted
by George & Shirley Durrwachter

Memorial for Ralph Spinney
by George & Shirley Durrwachter

Memorial for
Harold & Beulah Yerik
by Linda Schramm

OTHER CONTRIBUTION

Andrew & Elizabeth Harris

Janice Hiller

YEAR END APPEAL

Ron & Sondra Beach

Joseph & Ginny English

Cole & Suzanne Lee

Richard & Susan Sprout

Thank You...to all those who continue to support the work of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

"Raise the Region" Generates Over \$2,400 for Land Protection

If you live in one of the county's in which the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania works you are probably already familiar with Raise the Region. The on-line giving event was held March 12, 2013 with over 4,300 gifts being made to over 160 nonprofits. The on-line donations totaled \$726,827 with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships donating \$125,000 in

matching funds and Auto Trakk, Larson Design Group, and PNC Bank donating another \$37,500 in prize money. NPC received 27 donations and a total of \$2,439.35. Thank you to everyone who donated to NPC (or any non-profit during the event)! These funds will help us continue to meet with landowners, answer questions, and work on conserving this region's working farms and forests.

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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Fish-mas Eve 2013

Trout Season's Opening Day is a Great Time to Celebrate Land Conservation. NPC member Joe Radley uses the term "Fish-mas Eve" to refer to the day before trout season opens. I guess that makes the opening day Fish-mas, but I'll have to check with Joe on that.

Even if you don't fish (and I haven't in probably over 10 years), trout season's opening day is a great time to think about all the land conservation work and other work NPC has done. Below are three projects that tie into (get it - tie, fly tie, trout) trout and fishing.

NPC worked with the Fishing Creek Sportsmen's Association and Columbia County in 2007 to secure three conservation easements along Fishing Creek. These conservation easements require public access to the Creek in order to continue the fishing tradition in this region. Two of the sites are above Benton and the third is near Zaner's Bridge.

When NPC worked with the owners of the Pine Creek Camper Court to purchase their property just below Slate Run we knew it wouldn't take long for the public to start using the property. We were right; within weeks of the campground closing, fishermen, tubers,



A fisherman tries his luck at Naval Run Road

kayakers, and other creek users were getting to the Creek from the property. It's unusual to pass by during fishing season and not see at least one car here.

Partnering with landowners, conservation districts, watershed associations and corporations has allowed NPC, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and Department of Environmental Protection to install in-stream habitat structures to both stabilize stream banks and increase aquatic habitat. Dr. Mel Zimmerman, Lycoming College, has a student studying the aquatic life found at these sites post-construction. Once she's done, we'll be sure to share the results in our newsletter.



A fly fisherman casting near Zaner's bridge.



Installing in-stream habitat structures