

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Conservation Easement Stewardship Keeps Staff Busy

The increased activity with oil and gas leasing in our area has shown us once again the work involved in holding conservation easements. We may have a “closing” when the landowner signs the conservation easement, and it may feel like that’s a “done deal”, but in reality that’s just the beginning.

Oh sure, there’s the fun side of holding conservation easements. Walking through some great forests, strolling alongside some beautiful streams, walking through a field and sending a deer scurrying, all are wonderful. Those are the parts of NPC’s work that put a smile on your face, and makes going to work feel like you’re one with the natural world.

And then there is the serious side to conservation easements. Annually, staff visits properties with easements to monitor compliance with the easement agreement, sends several communications, and often visits with the landowners.

With the recent gas leasing “boom” staff is spending much more time contacting the owners of properties with conservation easements to track leasing activity. We are reviewing proposed activities to determine if they are permitted by the terms of each easement. Time is spent talking to landmen, geologists, and representatives of the various gas companies in an effort to keep us all on the same page. We are also working with our legal counsel to review proposed leases to ensure compliance with easement terms and acknowledgement of the conservation easement.

Over the past year, we’ve learned about Marcellus shale, hydro-fracturing, carrying lines versus gathering lines versus transmission lines,



Conserving working farms and forests

Christmas Trees (equipment that tops off a well, not the holiday tradition started in Germany) and the various methods used for seismic testing. We’ve visited well pads constructed and waiting for the drilling permits to be issued; a drill rig with drilling underway; and sites that have been re-seeded with the Christmas Tree in place. All this to stay informed, so our decisions are based on facts.

NPC’s Board of Directors had two special meetings last year about oil and gas leasing.

Several Board members also attended an open house and site visit held by one of the companies.

The Board recognizes that the drilling action underway now will be an on-going activity for years to come, and they need to be pro-active in learning about this this issue.

So, we’re continuing to read and discuss the various aspects of drilling for natural gas, recognizing that the “done deals” of holding conservation easements are really just a beginning.

Year End Appeal Gets Good Results

Thank you!! The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy’s 2008 Year End Appeal is wrapping up and we appreciate all the support. As you can imagine, we were a little nervous going into the Appeal since the economy is not where it was a year ago. However, more than 100 of you (see complete list on next page) didn’t let that stop you from providing extra support to NPC. Many of you even included a little note expressing hopes for positive results for the campaign.

So, thank you again, for helping us to continue to conserve the working farms and forests in this region.

Annual Membership Dinner

The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is holding a Cinco de Mayo party!!!

Well, not really, but that is the date of our **Annual Membership Dinner...Tuesday, May 5th.** Come out and join your fellow NPC members at the Holiday Inn in downtown Williamsport for an evening of good food, fun socializing, exciting project updates, and short business meeting (including the election of Directors).

You can make your reservations using the form below. We'll be sending out a reminder postcard in late March, and updating the website (www.npcweb.org) with more information as we get closer.

Annual Membership Dinner Menu...

Tossed Bistro Salad
Marinated Mushrooms
Penne Pasta Salad
Chicken Boscaioa
Beef Scallopini
Eggplant Parmigiana
Chef's Choice of Potato
Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert Assortment



Annual Membership Dinner Reservation Form

Name(s) for
Nametags _____

Day Phone for Main Contact _____

_____ People Attending
X \$25.00 Per Person = _____

_____ I am unable to attend. However, please accept this donation.

If you would prefer to pay for your reservation by Visa or Mastercard, please contact the NPC office Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Please enclose this form, along with your check made payable to:

**NORTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
CONSERVANCY**
PO BOX 2083
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17703

YEAR END APPEAL

Through January 31, 2009

- | | |
|--|--|
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MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY • November 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009

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 YOUR support to them.

Osprey (\$1000-\$1999)

Mark C. Oberheim, DMD

American Kestrel (\$500- \$749)

First Columbia Bank & Trust Co.
Woodlands Bank

Small Business (\$100- \$499)

Bass Pro Shops
Beiter's Inc.
Century 21/Wilkinson-Dunn Co.
First Keystone National Bank
Roan Inc.

GENERAL MEMBERS

BLACK BEAR (\$500- \$999)

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Gordon & Margie Shaw
Chris and Sherry Dwyer
Dr. Kim Herrman

WHITE-TAILED DEER (\$250- \$499)

Martin & Jean Doughty
Gary & Susan Harris
Walter & Trisha Nicholson
Stephen & Christine Sleboda
W. Holmes & Enid Yealy
Robert & Jean Teufel
Dr. Werner & Anna Martha Fetter

BLACK CHERRY (\$100- \$249)

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R. Jeffrey Coup
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Elizabeth Brown Dugan
Martin A. Friday
Veryl & Linda Frye
James Holtzman

BLACK CHERRY (\$100- \$249) Cont'd.

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Timothy and Deborah Greene
Slate Run Sportsmen's Association
Marc & Diane Lewis

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Mount Prospect Rifle Club
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Mr. & Mrs. James R. Parsons
Michael & Jeanne Rapp
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Kent & Donna Knisley
Sandy Rife
Dr. Douglas Wion

WHITE PINE (\$25- \$34)

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Jon Carlson
David & Carol Durrwachter
Dennis & Holly Dusza
Leroy & Marian Fahr, Jr.
True Fisher
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MEMORIALS

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by Edith Muthler

John Broshkevitch
by William and Ruth Correll

Doris J. Mitteer
by William and Ruth Correll

HONORARIUM

Frances & Glenn Lingle
by Jane E. Stahl

SPECIAL THANKS

Steve Jaquith
Donation of computer equipment

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

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

PO Box 2083
Williamsport PA 17703
570-323-6222
<http://www.npcweb.org/>

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West Branch Water Trail Stewardship & Conservation Plan Update

Plan writing is well underway and peer reviews will soon be taking place for the West Branch Water Trail Stewardship and Conservation Plan. This project takes off where the West Branch Water Trail map and guide left off.

Over the past 14 months the condition of current access points along this stretch of the Susquehanna River have been assessed, ideas on where new access points are needed have been gathered (there are some sections of the West Branch that have 20 mile stretches with no public access), and case studies have been developed.

Once the review is finished the plan will be finalized and submitted to the project's funders. After they've had the chance to review the document, it will be posted to the NPC website (www.npcweb.org) for anyone and everyone to use.

For more information about water trails visit the following websites:

www.fishandboat.com/watertrails/trailindex.htm
www.susquehannarivertrail.org/
www.lyhr.org/susriver_watertrail.htm
www.endlessmountainheritage.org/rivermap.html
www.lumberheritage.org/bookstore.htm

Stop By Our Booth...

NPC will be at the **Annual Trout Kick-Off March 21 & 22** at Montoursville Firemen's Social Hall and also at the **Pennsylvania Outdoor Life Expo** at Columbia Mall **March 26 thru 29**. Come out and say, "Hi" to NPC staff and volunteers.

NPC Staff Presents Programs

NPC was asked to participate in Penn State University's Natural Gas Summit. PSU was looking for a local or regional group to share thoughts on recent leasing and drilling activity. Charlie Schwarz, our land protection specialist, gave a presentation which focused on how leasing and drilling activity is impacting properties NPC has under easement. He also outlined the potential impacts for which NPC would monitor, and the additional time NPC spends stewarding our current conservation easements.

Charlie also attended a Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited's meeting. This Chapter dedicates their January meeting to learning more about what various watershed associations, land conservation groups, and others are doing to conserve and protect natural resources in Lycoming County.

Celebrity Waiter Night

Local celebrities will once again sharpen their pencils, don their wait-staff best, and insert cushioned insoles into their dress shoes to help the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy. **March 6, 2009** is the date for this year's Celebrity Waiter Night at the Herdic House.

Gloria and Marcia Miele are again opening the Herdic House doors to help conserve our region's working farms and forests by allowing NPC to recruit Celebrity Waiters for one night (and one night only) of great and glorious, friendly and fun-filled service. The tips earned by the Celebrity Waiters are all donated to the NPC. Join the festivities! Call the Herdic House at 570-322-0165 to make regular dinner reservations. Then, be ready to be generous tippers to our exclusive wait staff.