

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Round Top Conservation Easement Completed

In late December 2009 the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy protected another property in Tioga County's Charleston Township, which became the sixth conservation easement held by NPC in the township.

When Lou and Wanda Irion decided to protect this property they began the process that led to them becoming the first property owners to have donated three conservation easements to NPC.

Lou and Wanda furthered conservation efforts when they donated a conservation easement on 62-acres of a 70-acre property. The three Irion easements with NPC total 238 acres of protected woodland, farmland and wetlands.

The Irions are so enthused about protecting working farms and forests that Lou has offered to discuss their experience with other landowners who are considering placing conservation easements on their properties.



Tioga County's Roundtop Easement



Conserving working farms and forests

The recently conserved land contains forest (primarily young, high-quality sugar maple), conifer plantations, prime agricultural soils, and cropland, as well as fields slowly reverting to forest, open areas and wetlands. The property has impressive views and road frontage that would make it a prime target for residential development – now most of its acreage is permanently protected. Expansive scenic views are visible from the Shumway Hill Road, which runs through the

property. Bordering the property is the historic extension of the Wellsboro and Lawrenceville Railroad grade that was constructed in 1872 to transport coal from the mines at Antrim north to Corning, New York, and beyond; this railroad was abandoned in the 1930s.

NPC is calling this easement "Round Top" – not for the shape of the terrain, but for the peculiar shape of the roof of the first school in the area, which was known as the "Round Top School House."

The Round Top easement adjoins property the Irions protected with a conservation easement in 2004. This makes for a larger block of protected property providing habitat for wildlife, protection of the Charleston Creek watershed, and further preserving rural landscape and the economy of Tioga County. These things enhance the pastoral character that attracts so many visitors to the area.

"Thank you" to Lou and Wanda for protecting their properties for the future of North Central Pennsylvania, and "thank you" to our members for their support of NPC's conservation efforts.

NPC Staff Presents Programs

This Fall Jason Weigle (a PhD candidate at Penn State) along with a colleague, led a Colloquium class for the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment program. The graduate students spent the semester looking at the social, economic, and environmental issues related Marcellus shale development in Tioga County. During a Saturday field trip to Wellsboro, the class was joined by Charlie Schwarz (NPC's land protection specialist), Jim Weaver (Tioga County Planning), Bob Blair (Penn State Cooperative Extension), and Roy Seifert (Bureau of Forestry) to discuss the challenges of balancing local needs with resource development needs.

Charlie joined the group to discuss how NPC is evaluating requests related to Marcellus shale exploration. In Tioga County NPC has reviewed requests for pipelines and seismic testing. Staff anticipates these requests increasing in volume and changing in nature as development of the formation ramps up.

Year End Appeal Underway

Thank you!! Our Year End Appeal was sent out in late November and many of you have responded. At right is a list of donors through December 31, 2009. The Spring newsletter will include contributions received in January. If you'd like to contribute, just send a check, payable to **Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy**, PO Box 2083, Williamsport, PA 17703. Note on the memo line, "Year End."

20 Years of Land Conservation

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is turning twenty! It's hard to believe, but in April 2010 NPC will have been incorporated and operating for 20 years. We are looking for opportunities to inform the general public about our 20 years of success. If you belong to a group or service club looking for speakers, contact the office (570-323-6222) and talk to Renee' or Charlie. We're more than happy to talk about NPC's successes in your region!

YEAR END APPEAL

Through January 31, 2009

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MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY • October 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

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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.

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

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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Farewell Connie, Welcome Wendy!

You'll be hearing a new voice when you call into NPC's offices. Connie Livingston retired on December 31, 2009. Connie had been with NPC since 2004, and kindly gave 16 months notice. This allowed 2009 to be a transition year. Wendy Marshalek was hired in September and has been gradually increasing her hours and responsibilities.



Wendy and her husband, John, live outside Montoursville. Their daughter has a BA from Shippensburg and is adding to her degree with a second major at Penn College. Their son, also at Penn College, will be completing the paramedics program this summer. Wendy spends her free time gardening, volunteering at her church, and helping family and friends with various projects.

For her part, Connie is planning to enjoy retirement by traveling and spending more time with her grandchildren. In addition to some time in Florida this winter, plans for a Mediterranean cruise for Connie and husband Wayne are in the works. We hope Connie remembers the office address and sends postcards from her journeys!!

Celebrity Waiter Night

Are you looking for a fun night out? Looking for a dining experience with wonderful food, great service, and lots of entertainment? Look no further than the Peter Herdic House's Annual Celebrity Waiter Night to benefit the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy!



Friday, March 19, 2010 is the day NPC volunteers don their ties, practice reciting the evening's specials, and provide you exemplary service. All to earn tips that are then donated to NPC.

Waiters are being lined up as we speak. Mark Shuman (Clear Channel Radio), a veteran Celebrity Waiter, has signed on and is practicing his tray balancing in preparation. The Peter Herdic House will have an updated list of waiters, or call the NPC office for more details.

If you want to join in the evening's festivities, get your group of friends together, call the Peter Herdic House (570-322-0165) and make your reservations. You'll be dining off the menu that evening and get to enjoy any of the restaurant's fabulous dishes (and desserts!) with a few specials thrown in.