

# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

## Notes from 2011's Conservation Easement Monitoring

When NPC agrees to protect a property by means of a conservation easement that is not the end of our involvement with the property. In accepting a conservation easement NPC takes on the on-going obligation to make sure that the property is protected in perpetuity. At least once a year we must monitor the property to insure that the terms of the conservation easement are being followed. There is other involvement as well: meeting with landowners to answer questions; meeting with loggers and gas companies to explain the terms of the conservation easement and what may or may not be done; meeting with potential buyers of conserved properties to explain the conservation easement's terms and, when they purchase the property, to welcome them to the NPC community.

NPC's conservation easements are not written with the intent of placing a "bubble" around the protected properties. Instead, they are designed to protect each property's conservation values while at the same time insuring that the properties are available to produce the water, food, fiber and amenities needed by all of us. Here's what we've seen on some recent monitoring visits –

1. On an easement property visit in Lycoming County a box turtle was found in a dry oak woodland. Ten feet away was another, and a few feet further on was yet another. All three were males, indicated by their concave lower shells (called plastrons) and red eyes. Somewhere nearby there was probably a female for the males to court, but she remained hidden from human eyes. The box turtle is a species of special concern

*Continued on page 2*

## Laning Creek Conservation Easement Donated

The owner of 120 acres in Wysox Township, Bradford County, donated a conservation easement on his property to the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC) to protect the property's water resources and agricultural soils, and to allow for continued agricultural and forest uses.

The owner's family has been connected to this property for several generations; his grandfather farmed the property for many years. During summer vacations and trips to visit his grandparents, the owner helped farm this property. A family photo

shows him on the property as a young boy. The property's fields contain several areas of prime agricultural soils. The conservation easement will keep these soils undeveloped and available for agricultural uses.

Laning Creek and an unnamed tributary to the Creek, as well as a forested wetland, are all part of the water resources being conserved by the conservation easement. The landowner

and his cousins would spend hot summer afternoons at the creeks wading and looking under rocks as they kept cool. During a visit by NPC in November Dr. Mel Zimmerman, an aquatic biologist at Lycoming College, also looked under the rocks. Dr. Zimmerman found evidence of mayflies and caddisflies, both signs of good stream health.

The owner of the property wanted to ensure its agricultural and forestry uses could continue. He and his family appreciate walking the fields and the quiet solitude of the forest. Whether deer hunting in the fall, turkey hunting in the spring, or building a campfire to cook breakfast on a summer morning they enjoy the property and its values. By donating this conservation easement, he is helping to ensure that future generations will benefit from the property and its natural resources.



*Conserving working farms and forests*

# Notes from 2011's Conservation Easement Monitoring Continued from page 1

in Pennsylvania; the population is thought to be declining due to collecting, predation, "death by vehicle" and habitat loss.



2. In Bradford County, one protected property is comprised of both cropland and woodland. A portion of the woodland contains impressively large red oak trees, and one located in 2011 is of remarkable size. From the bark characteristics it appears that the tree is still growing vigorously and has many years ahead of it.



3. Boundary line maintenance has an important role for both landowners and NPC. Blazed and painted boundary lines show landowners and their neighbors where one property ends and another begins. Well-defined boundaries reduce problems of trespass and encroachment and make it easier to protect the conservation values that are the basis for conservation easements. NPC has worked with several landowners to reestablish their boundary lines.



4. Some properties under conservation easement have on-going issues with unauthorized ATV use. Whether by neighbors or folks from far away, much of the ATV use we see has adverse effects – soil erosion, disturbance of wildlife, destruction of vegetation and disturbance of wetlands – on the conservation values of protected properties. Unfortunately, many landowners, especially absentee landowners, are virtually powerless to control these unwanted visitors.



5. Protecting working forests has always been one of NPC's objectives as it works to conserve the resources of northcentral Pennsylvania. Many of the owners of conserved properties cut firewood to heat their homes or permit neighbors or family members to cut firewood. Other landowners are interested in long-term management for high quality sawlogs. In Lycoming County the owners of a protected property worked with a consulting forester to do timber stand improvement that will

*Continued on page 3*

## Notes from 2011's Conservation Easement Monitoring *Continued from page 2*

result in a higher value forest in coming years. All of NPC's conservation easements permit landowners to cut firewood on their property and require landowners to use a consulting forester when conducting commercial timber harvests.



6. Many owners of protected properties are very interested in managing their land to improve wildlife habitat – whether they are hunters, bird watchers or just like to see a variety of wildlife. All of NPC's conservation easements allow activities connected with wildlife habitat improvement. Some owners have established wildlife food plots, and others have erected nest boxes (one landowner has more than 100 on his property). Protecting property always protects wildlife habitat. Since wildlife moves from place to place, it is a public resource – so protected habitat benefits everyone.



7. 2011's high water events have impacted a number of properties under conservation easement with NPC. Especially heavily impacted were properties in the eastern parts of our area (Bradford and Columbia counties) that also have significant frontage on larger streams. These impacts remind us that natural systems are in a continual state of flux and that activities on other properties impact conserved lands. Trash dumped in the stream far above has now been deposited on the protected properties, trees torn out by their roots will take decades to replace, silt eroded from far upstream covers the stream's gravel bars where fish deposited their eggs in years past.



*Continued on page 4*

# Notes from 2011's Conservation Easement Monitoring

Continued from page 3

8. For the past two years a gas company has been making inquiries about constructing a pipeline across a property on which NPC holds a conservation easement. Both the conservation easement and the oil and gas lease on the property prohibit surface disturbance in connection with any oil and gas activities. The property contains a significant wetland and the Fish & Boat Commission has classified the stream as a Cold Water Fishery. The pipeline would, if constructed, have to cross both the stream and wetland. NPC and the landowner have politely, but firmly, told the company that the pipeline cannot cross the property and will have to be rerouted to avoid the protected property. Our monitoring visits would reveal any unauthorized construction on conserved properties.



## Board of Directors Resignation

Bill Burdett resigned from the Board of Directors in November. Bill explained that family commitments and obligations were taking up more time than they had in the past. He felt he could not provide NPC's Board of Directors with the time and attention it deserved.

The Board Development Committee is actively working to fill the spot. Keep an eye out for updates in future newsletters.

## 2011 YEAR END APPEAL

### A Big Thank You to Everyone Who Donated!

- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Donna Amer-Poust                | Wayne Laubscher                     |
| Dennis & Linda Ault             | Josephine Lewis                     |
| Ted & Tracey Barbour            | Marc & Diane Lewis                  |
| Carl & Marti Barlett            | Herman & Molly Logue                |
| Mike & Donna Bastian            | Charles & Hallie Luppert            |
| George L. & Penny H. Bower      | Honorable Roger A. Madigan          |
| J. Robert & Nancy Bower         | Lewis A. & Myla Magent              |
| Daniel Brennan                  | Patrick McCollum                    |
| Gerald Bride                    | Robert W. & Barbara McCullough, III |
| Mr. & Mrs. John L. Bruch Jr.    | Laurence F. Miller                  |
| Dr. John & Jean Burks           | Max Mitchell                        |
| Dr. & Mrs. Robert Burns         | Mr. & Mrs. Charles Moore            |
| Sally Butterfield               | Terry & Dorian Myers                |
| Richard & Grace Carey           | Dr. & Mrs. Donald L. Oakley         |
| Renee Carey                     | Nancy Paulhamus                     |
| James D. & Maria C. Casale      | Dr. Jon & Margaret Piper            |
| Dr. Robert & Loretta Coltrane   | Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Plankenhorn   |
| Mary Cosgrove                   | PPL Corporation                     |
| Andra DeHart-Robbins            | Mr. & Mrs. Chester Pribble          |
| Michael & Mary Ditchfield       | Honorable Thomas C. Raup            |
| Thomas Duck                     | James & Cheryl Redmond              |
| Chris & Sherry Dwyer            | Patricia A. Reeder                  |
| Larry & Maggie Emery            | Ed & Tink Reish                     |
| Dave & Lisa Engle               | Dennis & Patricia Ringling          |
| Nicole Faraguna                 | Thomas & Rita Rudy                  |
| George E. Farley                | MAS Printing                        |
| Anthony C. Ferraro              | Harold D. Sausser                   |
| Dr. Werner & Anna Martha Fetter | Rich & Beth Schluter                |
| Michael R. & Teri H. Fisher     | Stephen & Dorothy Schopfer          |
| Joanne Fisher                   | Linda Schramm                       |
| True Fisher                     | Charles & Helen Schwarz             |
| Bernette & George Fitzgerald    | Wayne H. & Carol Scott Sr.          |
| Veryl & Linda Frye              | Sam Shaheen                         |
| David K. Gilpin                 | David L. Shollenberger              |
| Joan C. Gingrich                | Mark Shuman                         |
| Gary Glick                      | Roy A. Siefert                      |
| Mr. & Mrs. Law Groner           | Richard & Susan Sprout              |
| John M. Hallgren                | David & Louise Stone                |
| Gary & Susan Harris             | Carolee & Dick Thatcher             |
| Nathan E. Harvey                | Drew Thompson                       |
| Robert & Margaret Hershey       | Rich & Alice Trowbridge             |
| Toner & Kathy Hollick           | William & Kimberly Van Campen       |
| Donald G. Holtzman              | Chalmer Van Horn                    |
| John & Judy Huhn                | Jerry & Joy Walls                   |
| Louis & Wanda E. Irion          | Buchanan Meadows                    |
| Ronald Johnson                  | Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Webster III     |
| Susan Joshi                     | Wheeland Lumber Co. Inc.            |
| William & Sarmite Judson        | Thelma White                        |
| Mr. & Mrs. Seth Keller          | Mr. & Mrs. H.W. Wieder              |
| Dr. Lester G. Kleckner          | Jane B. Williams                    |
| Kent Knisley                    | Linda & Dan Wolfe                   |
| Frances Kuntz                   | Bill & Pam Worobec                  |
| Daniel & Barbara Lamade         | Dorothy Yannaccone                  |
| Larson Design Group             | W. Holmes & Enid Yealy              |

Names listed above are donations received through 12/31/2011

# MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY • October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

## 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.

### Small Business (\$100-\$499)

Ralph S. Alberts Co., Inc.  
Bastian Tire & Auto Centers  
First Keystone Community Bank  
Louis & Wanda E. Irion  
Lycoming County  
Planning Commission  
Roan Inc.

## GENERAL MEMBERS

### BOBCAT

(\$1,000-\$4,999)

Alan Viani & Jane Morgenstern

### BLACK BEAR

(\$500-\$999)

J. Robert & Nancy Bower  
Tom Corbett  
Charles & Jane Darrow  
Dr. Kim Herrman  
Adrienne Noelk

### WHITE-TAILED DEER

(\$250-\$499)

Blair & Mary Carbaugh  
Dr. Werner & Anna Martha Fetter  
Michael R. & Teri H. Fisher  
Russ Kimura & Denise Hamby  
Laurence F. Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Perciballi  
Ms. Ruth Rode  
George & Mary Ellen Rodgers

### BLACK CHERRY

(\$100-\$249)

Carl & Marti Barlett  
Malcolm Barlow

## BLACK CHERRY (Continued)

James W. & Cynthia Mengel Bower  
Dale & Mary Bower  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael W. Bowser  
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Burns  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Burns  
Len & Jean Collins  
Merrill Dodge  
Doug & Frani Doherty  
Susan M. Durrwachter  
Veryl & Linda Frye  
Charles A. Grieb, AIA  
Mike Hoy  
Ken & Marcia Johnson  
Rod & Sue Keller  
Mr. & Mrs. Seth Keller  
Oscar W. Knade Jr.  
C. Fred & Judy LaVancher  
Marc & Diane Lewis  
Charles & Fay Lindrooth  
Loyalsock Creek  
Watershed Association  
Jim & Sue Mackay  
Bob Maguire  
Virginia F. Nicholas  
Mark & Brenda Oberheim  
Dick Penfield  
Pine Creek Headwaters  
Protection Group  
Phyllis Reynolds  
James C. Rogers  
Slate Run Sportsmen  
R. Bruce & Jeane Smay  
Linda Stein  
Albert & Judith Styrcula  
Robert & Jean Teufel  
Carolee & Dick Thatcher  
Paul O. & Patricia Wentzler  
Joanne Wise  
Dr. Mel & Gail Zimmerman

### RED OAK

(\$50-\$99)

Ted & Tracey Barbour  
Larry R. Bason VMD  
Valerie Beggs  
Carson V. Brown II DDS  
Bruce & Betty Buckle  
Stephen & Stephanie Budman

## RED OAK (Continued)

Ron Butler  
Ned Coates & Gayle Peters-Coates  
Mary Cosgrove  
William & Joyce Davis  
R. James Dunham  
Bernette & George Fitzgerald  
William & Karen Fry  
Pamela Gass & John Hamilton  
James Geurts  
Daniel Glunk & Margrit Shoemaker  
Jerry & Marian Haag  
Ken W. & Kathy A. Hakes  
Egbert & Frances Hall  
Hardy Hansen  
Marc Killingstad  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald King  
Frances Kuntz  
Gerald & Colleen Lacy  
Ed Lawrence &  
Catherine McLaughlin  
Kenneth & Ann Lundy  
John & Wendy Marshalek  
William & Susan Martens  
Mark Newruck  
Candace S. Nevel & Ellice Tomlinson  
Kathleen O'Brien  
Suzann & Bill Parsons  
Nancy Paulhamus  
John & Lana Raymond  
Dixie Reber  
Patricia A. Reeder  
Clifford A. Rieders  
Dennis & Patricia Ringling  
Terry Wild Stock Photography  
Craig Vuccola  
Robert G. & Rose Ann Wallace  
Jim & Beth Weaver  
D. Richard & Shirley Wenner

### SUGAR MAPLE

(\$35-\$49)

Robert Baker  
Robert & Joan Bauder  
Dave & Lisa Engle  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael A. Gross  
Stephen & Diane Groff  
Michael & Jeanne Rapp  
Heidi Schwarz-Hosler

## WHITE PINE (\$25-\$34)

Alvin G. Binkley  
Jon Carlson  
David & Carol Durrwachter  
Cody Ensanian  
Gordon & Mary Hiller  
Elinor Kantz  
Harvey & Anne Katz  
Susan O'Donnell  
Herbert O. Stratton  
Susquehannock Lodge  
Michael & Cindy Weinhold  
Armine Wodehouse  
W. Holmes & Enid Yealy

## GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

GoodSearch  
King Charitable Foundation

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorial for Rosemary Bower  
*by Richard & Grace Carey*  
  
Memorial for Bill Hosler  
*by Charles & Helen Schwarz*  
  
Memorial for Robert G. Leshner  
*by Robert & Frances Ambrovich  
by Don & Alice Andrews  
by Bob, Judy & Julie Follmer  
by Arlene Frey  
by Clair & Georganne Fuller  
by Richard & Shirley Griess  
by Jay & Jacqueline Jay  
by Richard & Kathleen G. Kurtz  
by Cameron & Janice McCormick  
by Joseph & Deborah Russell  
by Yvonne Staskel  
by Marian Whitenight  
by Lycoming Valley  
Middle School Staff*  
  
Memorial for Evelyn Reeder  
*by Gary & Jean Reeder*  
  
Memorial for Ralph Strouse  
*by Edith Muthler*

**Thank You...to all 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/>

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 201  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA

---

## PA Land Trust Association

NPC works with many other organizations. Some are small and we just work with them on one specific project. Others we work with frequently, or maybe they are large national organizations or offices. Throughout 2012, we'll highlight one organization each newsletter.

NPC's staff has been involved with the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA) since its formation. Literally. Former NPC Executive Director Chris Herrman was in charge of filing the incorporation papers in 1995.

PALTA helps land trusts improve the effectiveness of their land conservation work, builds understanding of land conservation, and advocates for better governmental policy for land and water conservation. PALTA provides educational resources such as seminars, workshops, guidance documents, and model documents. They also provide information on legislative issues and actively meet with legislators to discuss potential impacts to land trusts and conservation organizations.

Since Chris's original involvement, NPC's staff has served on the Board, presented at conferences, and actively participates in reviewing model documents and guidance documents. Renee' Carey is serving on PALTA's board and as its Secretary. Charlie Schwarz will present at the Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference in May 2012, as he has for a few years.

NPC's staff and Board appreciate the information and resources PALTA provides. We recognize that it requires active participation by its members for PALTA to succeed, and the time and effort we put in is minor compared to the value we get back.

For more about PALTA visit [www.conserveland.org](http://www.conserveland.org).

## Food, Fun, Fundraising at Celebrity Waiter Night, Friday, March 9

Join NPC at the Peter Herdic House in the historic section of Williamsport on Friday, March 9. Local celebrities will be tending bar, waiting tables, and singing for tips to benefit NPC's land protection program.

To make your reservations, please call the Peter Herdic House at 570-322-0165.



## Annual Membership Meeting Scheduled for May 9

NPC will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 9 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Williamsport. Mark your calendars now! Invitations will be sent out in late March with details on the dinner and silent auction held in conjunction with the Annual Membership Meeting. We hope to see you there!

## Kayak the West Branch

2011 was the wettest year on record. NPC's attempts at kayaking on the West Branch Susquehanna did not work out. We're trying again in 2012. Mark your calendars for August 12, and we'll see you on the River!

---