

**Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy**

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

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**Year End Appeal Underway**

Thank you for your role in helping to conserve this region. Your membership, support, partnership and donations allow NPC to be here, available to work on a variety of land conservation projects for you and future generations.

Your donations to NPC are financing conservation. You finance the conservation of this region's landscape and our land resources. You pay for Charlie's time spent drafting conservation easements. You pay for Renee's mileage to travel to a landowner's property and talk to them about that property's future. You pay for the internet service that allows Charlie to research the plants and animals on a property.

NPC can't do it without you. NPC's donors are the champions that provide the funding that pay for everything from rent, to payroll, to legal review of documents, to paper for the copier.

Thank you again for your past support. Make your gift right now to the 2015 Year End Appeal by using the form below and mailing it to NPC, PO Box 2083, Williamsport, PA 17703.



**Here is My Contribution to the Year End Appeal...**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your donation to:  
**NPC, PO Box 2083, Williamsport, PA 17703**

The Northcentral PA Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. NPC's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy**

**Construction In the Streams Wraps Up, Fencing Along the Streams Ramps Up**

The instream construction projects wrapped up in early October. Because of fish spawning (reproducing), in the Fall we have to be out of the streams so we don't interrupt this process.

We're still working on stream bank fencing projects however. Well, we'll work on those until the ground freezes, then it's kind of hard for the fencing guys to set fence posts.

Past issues of the newsletter have really focused on the instream projects – the multi-log vanes, the mudsills, and those things. The stream bank fencing is something we "added" to the tools in our tool box after our first couple of years.

The overwhelming source of impairment on the streams where the Stream Restoration Partnership works is sediment that covers the stream bottom (smothering some of the small "water bugs" or macroinvertebrates), damages the aquatic habitat, diminishes the ecological functioning of the stream, and reduces the recreational attributes of the stream.

If there are livestock along a stream, their hooves combined with their weight can mash down a stream bank and beat it up fairly quickly.



*Alpaugh fencing*



*John Fisher cows in stream*

As they mash down the stream bank, they are sending sediment into the water. Repeated pressure on stream banks also can cause the stream channel to become wider than



*Conserving working farms and forests*

normal. Over-widened stream channels are a problem for a couple of reasons. The water spreads out. This means the water becomes shallower because there's more surface area for the sun to heat up. As the sun heats up the surface area, the water becomes warmer overall,

and stays warm for some distance as it travels downstream. Most fish and macroinvertebrates prefer cold water. As the water spreads out, it also slows down. When it slows down, the sediment in the water drops out, creating larger areas of sediment and "muck."

Whenever livestock are impacting the stability of the stream bank, we try to install 2-3 strand high-tensile fencing after in-stream construction work is done. While we try to get the fence at least 35-feet from the top of the stream bank, that's not always possible.

The reality we are faced with is a diverse landscape (small or narrow stream) and logistical challenges (where was the barn built in relation to the stream). The actual site conditions do not always allow for a 35-foot setback. Sometimes,

*Continued on page 2*

## Construction... Continued from front page

35-feet may not even be necessary to get the environmental benefits.

Many of the farmers we work with utilize the best soils for row crops and pasture what's left – the poorer soils, the poorly drained areas, etc. To give up 35 to 70 feet (if they own both sides) of pasture is giving up a lot.

The fence keeps the livestock away from the stream bank so they can't mash it down. The fence also keeps the livestock out of the stream itself.

The space between the top of the stream and the fence becomes vegetated. This area, the riparian buffer, becomes a filter strip for sediment and nutrients. The vegetation also helps stabilize the stream bank. The roots on the plants help hold the soil in place so it's not as easily eroded away.

The Stream Restoration Partnership focuses on sites where the source of erosion and sediment deposition is the eroding stream bank, not run-off from agricultural fields, impervious areas, or residential properties. When there is run-off from fields, or parking lots, or backyards/lawns, there is concern about the riparian buffer serving as the filter. For our projects, we're more concerned about keeping the livestock away from and out of the stream.

If the fencing idea has you intrigued and you want to learn more, the Chesapeake Bay Commission just published a report on fencing. The link is below. The publication is a mix of normal report information, case studies, and graphs and photos. They did a really nice job with the report.

<http://www.chesbay.us/recent.htm>

## Ron Beach Print

Ron Beach is graciously allowing NPC to sell his recently released print, "The Night Hunter". The painting portrays a barn owl perched in a broken window of an abandoned building. The cost of the print is \$85.00 plus tax. Please call the NPC office for more details, 570-323-6222.



## Ways You Can Finance Land Conservation

If your year-end tax planning has you considering a gift to NPC, thank you. We really do appreciate how supportive our donors are. A request for a Year End Appeal donation is also in the newsletter, but here we want to mention something many people don't think about, appreciated stock.

Often people have inherited stocks or have in their portfolio stocks they purchased many years ago. Their basis in these stocks is low enough that selling these stocks can trigger a whole variety of fees and taxes.

Sometimes you can get more "bang" out of the stock by donating it to a charitable organization. The IRS generally allows you to deduct the full value of the stock at the time of the donation, regardless of what you paid for the stock. The non-profit can then sell the stock for its current market value and won't be paying taxes on the capital gain.

Don't consider this as tax advice – it isn't. It's more of a suggestion or something to think about and talk to your advisors about. You should contact your attorney or financial advisor to find out if this is an idea for you.

If you decide to make a year-end gift to NPC and find that you have some appreciated stocks, it may benefit you to donate them to NPC. NPC has a brokerage account with Wells Fargo and Deb Schneider is the financial advisor NPC works with. Her phone number is 570-322-7788.

## Regional Dinner Wrap-up

Thank you Scott Koser (Clinton County Conservation District) for presenting at the Clinton County Dinner. Scott did a great job of explaining the impairment issues facing Fishing Creek and providing an overview on a project done this summer to address an eroded stream bank.

Jim Weaver (Tioga County Planning) was the speaker at the Tioga County Dinner. Jim updated the group on the project to create a trail from the town of Wellsboro up to Wellsboro Junction where the Pine Creek Trail starts. A trail authority has been created and things are moving ahead.

## Conservation Easement Inspections Wrapped Up

Charlie completed all the conservation easement stewardship visits by the end of October! While he started this year's inspections when there was snow on the ground, he got done before there was snow back on the ground.

The winter 2016 issue of the newsletter will have some photos from those visits and a re-cap of what he saw.

We've talked before about these visits and how important they are. When we accept a conservation easement, we're taking on the perpetual obligation to ensure the conservation easement is followed. These visits help us and the landowner make sure this happens.

## Kayak or Stand Up Paddleboard

It's not too early to start planning your summer. July 16, 2016 will find NPC once again partnering with Canoe Susquehanna for a paddle trip on the West Branch Susquehanna. You'll get to see our area from a new perspective while watching for riverside wildlife, improving your paddling skills, learning about local history and enjoying the companionship of other friendly paddlers!

We'll be on Canoe Susquehanna's "West Branch Express" route. This route is 5 river miles from Watsontown to Milton with a stop at mile 3 for optional purchased food at a riverside restaurant (including ice cream). With the shorter distance, you might want to think about trying a stand up paddleboard.

## DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • August 1, 2015 to November 25, 2015

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