

# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

## Mexico Road Conservation Easement Completed in December



Chillisquaque Creek near Mexico Road

No, NPC is not greatly expanding its coverage area, this Mexico Road is in northcentral Pennsylvania's Montour County.

Chillisquaque Creek originates in the Muncy Hills on the Lycoming /Columbia County line, but for most of its length passes through Montour County before it finally flows into the Susquehanna River's West Branch south of Milton. Unfortunately, for much of its length the stream is heavily impacted by agricultural runoff – silt, pesticides and fertilizers all affect the water quality.

Now, with the finalization of a conservation easement on a 46 acre property with frontage on Chillisquaque Creek in Montour County, NPC has acted to protect a portion of the stream. The property contains seven acres of prime agricultural soils and 37 acres of agricultural soils of statewide importance; the fields have been leased to a neighboring farmer and will remain in agricultural production.

There are approximately five acres of woodland on an excellent growing site that comprise

a riparian buffer between the cropland and Chillisquaque Creek. Riparian buffers such as this protect water quality by filtering out the silt and chemicals before they enter the stream.

The easement donor's family has owned the property for many years, although he has lived out of state. But, he felt it was time to move on in life and pass the property on to someone else. At the same time, housing development has been moving into what had been an area of family farms, and the owner wanted to insure that the property would not become part of a roadside housing development.

Now with NPC holding a conservation easement on the property the easement donor will be selling the property to a nearby farmer who is enlarging his operations.

The conservation easement's limit on development made the property more affordable for agricultural purposes. The conservation easement requires use of best management practices

on cropland and protects the existing riparian buffer.

*Continued on page 2*



*Conserving working farms and forests*



Mexico Road wheat field

## Mexico Road... *Continued from front page*

Mexico Road between Milton and Washingtonville borders the property and offers a scenic view of the entire parcel in a sweeping arc from the road, across the fields and on to the woodland along Chillisquaque Creek.

This is NPC's second conservation easement protecting a portion of Chillisquaque Creek in Montour County. Thank you to all of our supporters for their help in making this project possible!



*Mexico Road 2015*

## 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.

## Stream Restoration Projects Being Planned

As my fingers thaw out from my walk to the office from the lot I park in, it's hard to believe that the 2016 construction season will be the seventh year NPC has worked with PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA DEP, and County Conservation Districts throughout the region to improve water quality.

The Watershed Specialists and Chesapeake Bay Technicians have been talking to landowners in watersheds all over the region and are doing a great job of finding willing landowners with stream front properties that have opportunity and potential.

The winter months are spent visiting sites and developing a list of potential projects (as of today that list has 70 possible sites on it and I know there are more visits happening in the next couple of weeks); discussing what equipment will be needed at each site and which contractor has the equipment to handle the job; and for our partners at Susquehanna University, picking through the macroinvertebrate (bug) samples collected during the 2015 season.

In the next couple of weeks the group will meet to prioritize projects for the upcoming year, talk about when projects can and cannot happen (vacations, other commitments, weddings, babies, etc.), and set a tentative schedule for construction. Once that tentative schedule is set, contractors will be finalized and supplies will be ordered.

We'll continue to update you on the projects and progress in upcoming newsletters. You can also keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information and photos.



<https://www.facebook.com/NPCconservancy>

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

## Annual Membership Meeting Set

Mark your calendars! NPC's Annual Membership Meeting will be held on May 4, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Williamsport.

This year, three board members are rotating off and two board members are eligible to serve a second term. The members present at the meeting will elect at least three new board members.

Invitations will be mailed out in late March. Preceding the election will be socializing, beginning

at 6:00pm and dinner, beginning at 6:30pm.

Reservations for this year's dinner are due April 26, 2016. The cost will be \$35.00 per person for the buffet dinner. A cash bar will be available. This year's menu features:

House Salad • Roast Beef • Roasted Turkey  
Mashed Potatoes • Steamed Broccoli and Cauliflower  
Fresh Baked Breads • Assorted Desserts  
Coffee, Tea and Iced Tea

## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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## Year End Appeal a Success!

Thank you for your role in helping to conserve this region. NPC's donors are the champions that provide the funding that pays for everything from rent, to payroll, to legal review of documents, to paper for the copier. Thank you to everyone who made a special donation to the Year End Appeal.

### YEAR END APPEAL THROUGH 1.31.16

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