

# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

## Cavanaugh Access Taking Shape

Members and donors made it possible for NPC to attend a real estate auction, be the high bidder, and 57 days after an initial conversation with the Bureau of Forestry's Harrisburg staff, take title to an amazing 132 acres at the end of November 2016.

The property includes large wetlands along Marsh Creek. If you're in the area in the next month or so, drive out Route 6 and take a look at the water. The winter snow fall and spring rains generally keep standing water in the wetlands in the spring. Depending on what waterfowl are migrating through you might even get to see some different birds.

In the last newsletter we highlighted the property's recreational attributes. The Cavanaugh Access is about halfway between the Stokesdale access near Pag-Omar Farm Market and the Ansonia Access near where Marsh Creek enters Pine Creek. Through this stretch, the trail is a narrow corridor through privately owned lands. People who use the Trail are asking the Bureau of Forestry for places to get off the Trail and enjoy the day, or visit more of the wetlands.

One of the reasons the Bureau of Forestry was interested in owning the property was to create a parking area and access to the Pine Creek Rail Trail at the Cavanaugh Access property. This idea is several steps closer to reality.

Thanks to donations from Bear Meadow Lodge, Tiadaghton Audubon Society, Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group, and the Asaph Trail Club the funds were available to obtain a demolition permit and cover the tipping fees

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*Ault conservation easement site*

## Conservation Easement Site Visits Start, Stop, Then Start Again

The first conservation easement site visit happened on March 8, 2017!! As you can see

from the photo, it was a typically, kind of dreary, March day in northcentral Pennsylvania.

Then, it snowed on March 12 and 13. And snowed some more.

While the 18" +/- the Williamsport area received didn't stay for long, it stayed long enough to cause the re-scheduling of 3 site visits. Things are back

on track and all 47 conservation easements will be visited by the end of the year!

## 2017 Stream Restoration Projects Set

By the time you receive this newsletter there will be two to four stream restoration projects already wrapped up for 2017. The first project of the year with in-stream work began April 3.

We try to learn from our past experience and after 7 construction seasons we've realized that it's better to spread things out over a 6 month

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*Conserving working farms and forests*

## Cavanaugh Access *Continued from front page*

for the demolition of the building on the property. Waste Management provided roll-off dumpsters and Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority worked with NPC on the disposal costs.

The snow made getting the equipment and dumpsters on site a little more interesting than we were hoping. On the positive side, the snow helped keep the dust down and provided a nice background for the photos taken during demolition. (We really try to find as many positives as possible at NPC.)

Thanks to the cracker jack maintenance crew on the Tioga State Forest the building is down and they have the grading complete. The rain that came in late March delayed things a little. Final grading and some grass seeding were done by the middle of April. We were hoping to have the building gone by the time Trail use picked up, and we made it. If you look at the site today, you'd never know there was a building there.

Eventually the Bureau of Forestry wants to add a few benches to the property to allow bikers, hikers, walkers and wanderers a place to sit, rest, and enjoy the day.

They are also paying attention to the spring's water levels in the wetlands. There's some interest in creating a walking trail to allow people to see more of the wetlands, and hopefully see more wildlife. In order for some type of path or walkway to be



*Cavanaugh Access building being demolished.*

developed, the Bureau of Forestry will need to understand and plan for the spring high waters. It may take a year or three until they feel comfortable in their knowledge of the seasonal water levels to allow the trail idea to move forward.

Signage will eventually be installed as well. The Cavanaugh Access has a name and almost a parking area. We want to make sure people know where they are and how the access got there.

We are hoping to have a dedication this summer. DCNR Secretary, Cindy Dunn, and the State Forester, Dan Devlin, would like to attend so we'll be scheduling based on their availability. This may not allow time for a full mailing to happen. If you have an email address and haven't been receiving emails from NPC, please let us know by emailing Bridget at [bkane@npcweb.org](mailto:bkane@npcweb.org). We can add/verify your email address in our email service.

## Paddle with NPC on Sunday, August 27, 2017

Spend a Sunday afternoon this August covering the 8 river miles between Montoursville and Muncy with an island rest stop mid-way.

After receiving paddling instruction, we begin our paddle with practice in a forgiving pool before heading downstream and around the bend into an area without roads, just pools and gentle drops. Keep your eyes peeled for bald eagle sightings, experience body surfing a riffle at the snack spot, cool off new friends with water blasters, bask in the peace of the West Branch Susquehanna River, and notice the V of the pre-historic eel weirs as you make your way around their riffles. As we approach Muncy you will get to see an impressive example of a canal wall from

the early 1800's.

The cost is \$55.00 per person if you plan to use a Canoe Susquehanna kayak, and \$45.00 per person if you bring your own equipment. Remember, boats must have current registration or launch stickers. Reservations are required. Email [Mail@PaddleHappy.com](mailto:Mail@PaddleHappy.com) or phone 888-524-7692 (local: 570-524-7692) to book your spot!

***If you have included the NPC in your will, please let us know so that that we may thank you during your lifetime.***



# DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • January 1 to March 31, 2017

## MEMBERSHIPS

### ELK

(\$5000)

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(\$25-\$34)

Mrs. Anne Donnelly

## WHITE PINE

(Continued)

Joseph & Ginny English  
Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates  
Sandy Rife

## RAISE THE REGION 2017

Carl & Marti Barlett  
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## CAVANAUGH ACCESS CONTRIBUTIONS

Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group  
Karen Sick

## GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Jersey Shore Garden Club  
Alex & Tracie Witter

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

## YEAR END APPEAL WRAP-UP

*Thank you for helping to conserve this region. The donations received through December 31, 2016 were listed in the Winter 2017 newsletter. Below are the donations received from January 1, 2017 through the end of the first quarter.*

Joseph & Ginny English

Marc & Diane Lewis

Herman Logue

Dr. Eberhard & Mary F. Passarge

## 2017 Stream...

*Continued from front page*

period of time than to try and get everything done in 4 months. Our previous line of thought related to when interns and seasonal help were available to operate sledge hammers. Since the gas-powered jackhammers are being used more, it's not as critical to have extra help on hand (however, if you're interested in operating a sledge hammer for 4 to 6 hours a day as a volunteer, we won't say no).

Spreading the projects out also will help when bad weather delays a project. We have at least 1

week each month that is "open" and could be used if a project needs to be re-scheduled.

If all goes as planned at least 15 projects with in-stream work will be completed this summer, 4 projects that are just vegetative stabilization, and several others that are streambank fencing and/or stream crossings.

We already have a working list for 2018 and 2019. The County Conservation Districts are doing a great job of finding interested landowners and great project sites.

## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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## Celebrity Waiter Night 2017 - Thank You!

Thank you to those that joined us for Celebrity Waiter Night on Friday, March 24, 2017 at the Peter Herdic House (Williamsport's historic district) in support of NPC. Our wonderful, volunteer Celebrity Waiters were happy taking orders while being assisted by the "real" Peter Herdic House staff. All tips left to the Celebrity Waiter were donated back to NPC. The waiters had fun mingling and working the room for those tips. There was even some friendly competition amongst the waiters to see who could raise the most in tips to benefit NPC. The Celebrity Bartenders were busy behind the bar mixing and pouring. The bar area was a popular hangout!

A beautiful Jasper necklace made by Laurie Burkholder was won in our raffle drawing by Barbara Heere. Joy Walls took the highest bid in the silent auction on a dinner at the Herdic House and Peter Herdic Inn courtesy of and prepared by the Herdic



House and Alivia Tagliaferri. Heister Linn was the other silent auction winner of a day on Pine Creek courtesy for Andra DeHart-Robbins with lunch provided by Chef Hosch.

Over \$4,800 was raised in tips, raffle tickets and silent auction donations! Again, a huge thank you to the Peter Herdic House and all our Celebrity Waiters who made the evening so special and helped raise money to conserve our lands!

- Susan Durrwachter, *CNN/Turner Broadcasting*
  - Jason Fitzgerald, *PennStrategies*
  - Dr. Steven M. Hawley, *UPMC Susquehanna*
  - Rick Mason, *Photographer*
  - Tony Nardi, *Fish Real Estate*
  - Peachie O'Connor, *Community Volunteer*
  - Amie Penfield, *Berkshire Hathaway HomeService*
  - Dr. Zachary T. Ritter, *UPMC Susquehanna*
  - Mark Shuman, *iHeart Radio Media*
  - Jerry Walls, *Community Planning Consultant*
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