

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Wetlands Along Trail to be Added to State Forest

When the railroad following Pine Creek in Lycoming and Tioga Counties was abandoned in the late 1980s Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources acquired the right-of-way for a 62 mile rail-trail. To help provide for parking and access to the trail DCNR's Bureau of Forestry subsequently acquired the former White Tail Campground two miles north of Jersey Shore.

Adjacent to the White Tail site and located between the trail and Route 44 is a wetland with a small area of higher, drier ground. For a number of years the Bureau of Forestry has been interested in acquiring the property containing the wetland, but the negotiations had been unsuccessful.



Conserving working farms and forests

During the past year NPC has negotiated with the property owner, done a title search, had the property surveyed, entered into agreements of sale, successfully purchasing the 6.15 acre property which will soon be transferred to DCNR as an addition to the Tiadaghton State Forest.

Although comparatively small, the property is significant. Its wetland recharges groundwater, stores rainfall for slow discharge, provides habitat for wildlife, buffers the trail from traffic on Route 44, and offers trail users the opportunity to see wildlife and wildflowers. A small stream draining from the wetland flows directly into Pine Creek.



Election of Directors Held in May

The Annual Membership Dinner in May wasn't just a fun night of good food and great conversation. There was a little business conducted. The NPC members in attendance at the dinner elected Mary Cosgrove to a second three-year term, and three new board members to their first three-year term. Mel Lewis, Dick Penfield, and Jim Weaver all joined the NPC Board that evening and attended their first official board meeting in May.

You may be asking, who are these people? Mary Cosgrove is a resident of Laporte, PA. She was the realtor and broker behind Sullivan County Real Estate for many years. Now that she is "semi-retired" you're more likely to find her golfing with her friends, spending time with her children and grandchildren, or helping with various organizations and activities in Sullivan and Bradford County.

Mel Lewis served on the board before. He and his family live outside of Hillsgrove. When he's not working at Dwight Lewis Lumber Company you'll find him camping with his family, volunteering with the local fire company, or participating on various committees within the hardwood lumber industry.

Dick Penfield is a lifelong Lycoming County resident. His early education in ornamental horticulture developed into an interest in landscapes both manmade and natural. He is a Realtor with over 25 years of brokerage experience and currently serves as a director for the West Branch Valley Association of Realtors. He also served on the Old Lycoming Township Zoning Hearing Board for 10 years. In his spare time, Dick enjoys paddling and fishing local streams and lakes in Canada, biking area trails and sharing his enjoyment of the outdoors with family and friends.

Jim Weaver and his wife are residents of Tioga County and live near Wellsboro. He has an environmental consulting business, and serves as the planner for Tioga County. As if those two jobs

weren't enough, Jim volunteers for organizations such as the Tioga County Conservation District and Endless Mountains RC&D. He also always finds time to fish his favorite streams and during the Spring you'll find him boiling sap at his sugar shack.

NPC's Board of Directors...

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Carl Barlett | Melvin Lewis |
| Bill Burdett | Lew Magent |
| Mary Cosgrove | Dick Penfield |
| Matthew Cramer | Charles Plankenhorn |
| Kevin Drewencki | Ann Tyler |
| George Durrwachter | Jim Weaver |
| Charles Grieb | Bill Worobec |
| Bonnie Hannis | Gail Zimmerman |

2009-2010 Officers Elected in May

The first board meeting after NPC's Annual Membership meeting is the reorganizational meeting, where the board elects officers, appoints at-large members of the Executive Committee, and conducts new board member orientation. Our reorganizational meeting this year was held on May 26.

New board member orientation provides a structured opportunity for the new members to receive copies of NPC's policies and the organization's case for support. These documents provide the group with the strategic plan, definitions of commonly used terms, and short biographies of board and staff, as well as information on the organization's programs and history. The meeting is also a refresher for those board members who have been serving.

The results from the election of officers and Executive Committee members at large is:

- **Gail Zimmerman** continues as Chair
- **Charles Plankenhorn** is now the Vice-Chair
- **Mary Cosgrove** will serve as Secretary
- **Ann Tyler** remains the Treasurer
- **Carl Barlett, Bill Burdett, and Kevin Drewencki** will continue on as the at-large members of the Executive Committee

Former Board Members Recognized

The Annual Membership Dinner was also the opportunity to recognize a director who was rotating off the board and one who would have rotated off, but submitted a resignation before tax season got underway.

This year, Marc Lewis completed his second three-year term and rotated off the Board. Steve Deitrick would be completing his service as well, and passed the reins as Treasurer to Ann Tyler a couple months early due to his work schedule. Both were recognized and presented with plaques commemorating their service to NPC.

Marc's forestry background, knowledge of all things Sullivan County, and his enjoyment in having fun all helped NPC during his six years of service. His forestry expertise often helped inform the board's discussions about the woodland features of a project. Last June NPC began coordinating discussions on the Loyalsock Creek watershed and whether or not there was interest in developing a Rivers Conservation Plan for the watershed. Marc provided information and insight about Sullivan County stakeholders that helped create a well functioning steering committee to guide the grant application process.

Steve was not just a NPC board member, he was also Treasurer. Christine Sleboda suggested him as her replacement, and we were very happy that he agreed. Steve's experience in auditing non-profits and government was put to good use as he worked with staff to streamline practices throughout the year to allow for easier year end tracking. Steve was always willing to explain details and transactions to the Board so they had the information needed to make decisions and understand what a project cost in terms of staff time and expenses. No one realized this until after he was on the board, but Steve has not only an accounting degree, but a forestry degree too. We certainly relied on his input in both areas during his time on the Board. **Thanks again to both of them for all their time and help!!**

We're "Banking" on You!

NcP-IGGY is the host of this year's spring fundraising campaign.

Why a Piggy Bank you say?

Piggy Banks are cute and appealing.

The landscape of northcentral Pennsylvania is certainly appealing.

Piggy Banks remind us of our youthful past and our children's and grandchildren's future.

NPC's goal is to protect local lands for the future.

Piggy Banks collect small amounts of money which added together can be a valuable amount.

NPC's contributors joining their gifts together create a valuable benefit for our important work.

Through annual memberships, our members provide a major portion of the funding that allows NPC to assure the protection of working farms, working forests, important waterways and landscapes in our 12-county area. And sometimes we need to rely on our members for additional funding. So this year you can help NcP-IGGY from wallowing in the spring mud.

The NPC member who created this campaign is not shy about asking for support

for something that benefits not only all of us, but the children who will be the adults of the future. If we don't care enough now, how can we expect them to care later! *Please read the enclosed envelope about NcP-IGGY; then fill it up and return to NPC. Thank you for your support.*



Stream Habitat Projects Set for July Construction

Things are moving ahead for construction of fish habitat structures at over 20 project sites this summer. Thanks to funding from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, landowners throughout northcentral Pennsylvania will receive help in getting projects "in the stream."

The techniques and structures have been used by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for over 40 years all across Pennsylvania. These grants are helping to increase the number of projects getting done (and the workload of the specialists at the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission) in this region. The project has also provided the opportunity to educate some of the newer watershed specialists about the techniques.

Another component of the project is documenting the pre and post construction condition of the streams' physical characteristics and biological condition. Students from Bucknell University, under the supervision of Dr. Ben Hayes will be assessing the streams' physical condition before the work is done. They'll take a variety of measurements along the banks and across the stream. Then, they'll repeat the process after construction to compare the changes.

Biologists with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will conduct the biological research pre and post construction at same site. This will help scientists look at the links between physical stream condition and biological stream health.

NPC was asked to manage the project and oversee the grants. It's been a great opportunity for NPC to work with the watershed specialists and learn more about the various habitat improvement projects undertaken by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Our Fall and Winter newsletters will have more information about some of the individual projects. Several of the project sites are on properties that are open to the public. We'll be sure to highlight those, so you know where you can go to see the structures "in action."

Regional Dinner Set for Lock Haven

Interested in learning more about the stream restoration and fish habitat projects NPC has been working on with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Department of Environmental Protection? Then mark your calendar and plan to attend NPC's Clinton County Dinner!

Dave Keller, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Habitat Management Division, will explain the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's stream habitat program, and how the projects NPC's involved with fit. Dave has worked in this program for several years and takes the projects from design through construction.

We'll be at the Durrwachter Alumni Conference Center on the campus of Lock Haven University on October 13, 2009. Registration will be from 6:00 PM until 6:30 PM, with dinner beginning at 6:30 PM. A NPC update and Dave's program will immediately follow dinner.

The cost is \$20 per person with reservations due by October 6, 2009. Call the office at 570-323-6222 to make reservations. As in past years, NPC members in Clinton County will receive a special mailing in early Fall that includes a reservation form.

We hope to see you this Fall!



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

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY • April 1, 2009 to May 31, 2009

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 YOUR support to them.

Bald Eagle (\$2000-\$4999)

PPL Corporation

American Kestrel (\$500-\$749)

Citizens & Northern Bank
JBH3 Architects

Small Business (\$100- \$499)

Susquehanna Chapter of
Trout Unlimited

GENERAL MEMBERS

BOBCATS (\$1000-\$4999)

Matthew & Lisa Cramer
George & Shirley Durrwachter
Joanne Fisher

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Dr. & Mrs. Daniel R. Gandy

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Andrew Bamford
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Stacy Duffield
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Albert Hoffman
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Deen & Denise McKillips
Raymond and Darlene Rathmell
Evelyn Reeder
Ed & Tink Reish
Phyllis M. Ridge

WHITE PINE (\$25- \$34)

(Continued)

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Mr. & Mrs. John Sciortino
William S. Seward
Harold & Beulah Yerck

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Patrick Cosgrove

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Dr. Mel & Gail Zimmerman;
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by William and Ruth Correll

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Alfred Buck
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Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

PO Box 2083
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570-323-6222
<http://www.npcweb.org/>

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Kayak With NPC

Join NPC as we paddle the West Branch Susquehanna from Montgomery to Watsontown with Canoe Susquehanna. The trip will be held August 15 and the group will meet at 2 PM. The cost is \$40 for full equipment rental (kayak, paddle, personal floatation device, and shuttle service), or \$20 if you bring your own equipment, and only need the shuttle.

The trip should take approximately 3 hours. This is dependent on the water conditions and the pace of the group.

Contact Canoe Susquehanna for more info or to make reservations, www.paddlehappy.com, or 888-524-7692. Please be sure to mention the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy!!



Conservation and Stewardship Plan Out for Review and Comment

The West Branch Water Trail Conservation and Stewardship Plan will be out for public review at the end of June. Check NPC's website for more information! All comments will be due July 15.

Regional Dinner Planned for Wellsboro

Plans are underway for NPC's Tioga County Dinner. We'll be at the Penn Wells Hotel in late October. Arrangements are being made with our speaker and the Penn Wells, but nothing is finalized. Keep an eye out for more information!

NPC's Has Protected

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|-----------------------|-------------|
| Bradford County | 649 acres |
| Clearfield | 150 acres |
| Clinton | 5,729 acres |
| Columbia..... | 93 acres |
| Lycoming..... | 1,718 acres |
| Montour | 102 acres |
| Northumberland..... | 225 acres |
| Sullivan..... | 875 acres |
| Susquehanna | 119 acres |
| Tioga | 1,086 acres |
| Union | 2 acres |

As of May 31, 2009