

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Not Just Wells...The Pipelines Are Coming!!!

The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy's Board of Directors and Staff are increasingly asked, "What is NPC doing about Marcellus shale?" To help you understand the various issues NPC faces with respect to any oil and/or gas lease, or reserved right, the Spring issue of the NPC newsletter had an article by Carl Barlett (an NPC board member and retired attorney) on precedence and how a pre-existing lease impacts a conservation easement. In this newsletter, Charlie Schwarz discusses the potential impacts from the pipelines, needed to gather and transport the gas.

The hundreds and hundreds of miles of pipeline rights-of-way that will be constructed in the next few years will be one of the most significant impacts of the gas boom in northcentral and northeastern Pennsylvania.

Every well that will be producing commercial quantities of natural gas will have to be connected to a pipeline. By some estimates there will be 100,000 wells drilled into the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania, most of which will be clustered on wellpads containing from four to twelve wells.



Conserving working farms and forests

As much impact as all those wellpads will have on land and resources, each wellpad will ultimately have to be connected via a gathering pipeline to a larger pipeline that will transport the gas to market. The wellpads may be five acres in size, but clearing each mile of 60 foot

wide right-of-way will also clear about 1 1/2 acres. While some pipeline rights-of-way may be narrower than 60' many will be even wider.

Pipelines across agricultural fields may not have much impact; the soils have already been



disturbed and crops can still be grown above the buried pipes. However, the pipelines will dissect the forests they traverse, providing corridors that will: facilitate the spread of invasive exotic

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Not Just Wells...

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vegetation, reduce habitat for wildlife that live in relatively undisturbed woodland, and encourage trespass by ATVs and other motor vehicles.

NPC's first experience with a proposed gathering pipeline was with a protected property that already had a gas lease in place when the conservation easement was finalized. When an oil and gas lease predates a conservation easement the lease takes precedence and the easement held by NPC would have no bearing on the location or construction of a pipeline.

The proposed pipeline was to transport gas from a well on an adjacent property across the protected property. Although most of the proposed route was through hayfields, the pipeline would also have to cross a small stream. After NPC met with a representative of the company that wanted to build the pipeline, the company agreed to meet NPC's concerns regarding the stream crossing.

But then ... the company that owned the well assigned the lease to another company – a very common occurrence – and the new company decided to transport the gas through a pipeline following a different route that will avoid the protected property. A much better outcome for our protected property.

Another pipeline may cross the Conklin Run tract acquired in 2003 by NPC and subsequently transferred to the Makoma Conservancy. The pipeline in this instance would be part of an interstate system connecting the Transco pipeline in Lycoming County to the Tennessee pipeline in Bradford County and on to a gas storage field in New York State. This transmission line is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and eminent domain can be used to force a right-of-way across any property regardless of its ownership or protected status.

Few of the many pipelines that will be built have been built as yet, but we can expect to see much more pipeline construction in the coming months and years.

NPC Annual Dinner and Silent Auction Held June 9

Other than some minor issues with parking availability, NPC's Annual Dinner was a success! Over 70 people attended the event, held at the Holiday Inn in downtown Williamsport.

A reception preceded the dinner buffet, allowing time for old friends to catch up, and new ones to be made.

Following dinner, the Election of Directors was held (see article on next page) and staff provided an update on recent activities.

NPC's donors outdid themselves for the Silent Auction. Thank you to all the donors and bidders!

Oval & Square Platters
Donated by Linda Campbell

Miniature Blanket Chest
Donated by Bill Geyer

**Jasper, Amethyst & Sterling Necklace
& Sterling Necklace**
*by Laurie Burkholder
(L. W. Beads)*

Brass Candlesticks
by John Marshalek

Curly Maple Leaf Cutout
by Charlie Schwarz

Basket of Baked Goods
by Heidi Schwarz-Hosler

***A few scenes
from recent
conservation
easement
inspections...***



Election to the Board of Directors

The Annual Dinner and Membership Meeting is not only a chance to celebrate NPC's success and progress toward conserving the region's working landscape, but also where the members elect individuals to serve on the Board of Directors. This year three new directors joined the Board:

Andra DeHart-Robbins is a retired horse trainer who now spends her time paddling, fishing, walking with her dog, and hunting. She grew up in the Milton area, traveled extensively, and now lives outside Montoursville.

Andy Harris is a Financial Advisor with The Comprehensive Financial Group. He lives in Williamsport with his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Juliet. In addition to spending his free time with family, he is training for his second New York City Marathon and is also involved with the Lycoming County United Way and Leadership Lycoming.

Romey Fagnano works for Lycoming Housing Authority. In a previous position, Romey was the accountant who audited NPC's financial records. He, his wife, and their two sons live outside Montoursville.

NPC's Board members are elected for three year terms. They can serve two consecutive three year terms and then rotate off the Board. This year's annual Dinner and Membership Meeting marked the end of Matt Cramer, George Durrwachter, and Gail Zimmerman's second three year term. All were active, engaged board members who spent time on the Executive Committee, helping with fundraising events, and providing insight and input on projects.

At the Dinner, their recognition didn't focus on what they did as Board members, but rather focused on why they did it. George and Gail had the surprise opportunity to "introduce" the group to their grandchildren (they didn't know that their spouses provided staff with photos), and talk about how their involvement in NPC was, in part, motivated by a desire to provide future generations with special places and a landscape that not only provides food and raw materials, but a landscape that helps clean water, provides recreational opportunities, and is a place to "get away" and relax.

Thank you Matt, George, and Gail, not only for your help to NPC, but your help in providing Benjamin, Jonathon, Matison, Oren, Cooper, Maile, and Makena with special places and a working landscape.



Board Holds Re-organization Meeting

The first board meeting following the election of directors is NPC's re-organization meeting. This is where the officers are elected and an orientation is held for new board members. Here is the new slate of officers and Executive Committee members:

Charlie Plankenhorn.....Chair
Bonnie HannisVice-Chair
Romey FagnanoTreasurer
Mary Cosgrove.....Secretary
Carl Barlett • Bill Burdett • Kevin Drewencki

Paddle Trip Set

Join the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy as we partner with Canoe Susquehanna and the Warrior Run Pathways Project for a paddling trip from Montgomery to Watsonstown. We're moving the trip to October this year to experience the river during a different season. On Sunday, October 10, 2010 we'll be meeting at 2:00 PM and paddling the 7 miles from Montgomery to Watsonstown.

The cost is \$40 per person (equipment and transportation), or \$20 per person if you have your own equipment (just transportation). Reservations can be made by calling Canoe Susquehanna at 1-888-524-7692. Reservations are required.

If you've never paddled before, or are not an experienced paddler, this will be a great opportunity to give it a try, gain some confidence and see the river from a new perspective!



At this project on Wallis Run, interns from Lycoming College worked with PFBC staff to drive rebar. The Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association also had volunteers on hand during this project.

Growing Greener Grant for Stream Habitat and Restoration Projects Wraps Up

The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have been partnering for over three years on in-stream habitat projects that help stabilize stream banks.

Funding for these projects has been provided through DEP's Growing Greener grant program and the State Wildlife Grant program. Due to the DEP grant expiring on June 30, 2010, waivers were obtained to begin the in-stream work in May this year. In 2009, the in-stream work didn't begin until June 30.

Projects took place in Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Centre, Lycoming and Tioga Counties. In addition to PFBC staff providing construction oversight, staff from the Potter County Conservation District, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and Stone Valley Construction assisted in getting everything done on time (often ahead of time) and had fun while doing it.

The grant close out process will happen this summer, and the NPC Board will determine if NPC will apply for future grants to continue facilitating these stream restoration projects.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY • May 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010

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.

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

Alpine Club of Williamsport
Mark C. Oberheim DMD

American Kestrel (\$500- \$749)

Woodlands Bank

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Wayne H. & Carol Scott Sr.

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Dr. Colson Blakeslee

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Mr. & Mrs. Chester Pribble
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Sam Shaheen
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WHITE PINE (\$25- \$34)

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Cush's Retreat, Inc.
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Thank You...to all those who continue to support the work of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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Lochabar Site of NPC'S Spring Fundraiser

Ted and Judee Lyon hosted the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy at their property, Lochabar, on May 23, 2010. The fundraising event was held with a little rain during set-up and not much shine during the event. At least one participant commented that the overcast skies added to the property's mythical atmosphere.

Carl and Opal Schlappi provided musical entertainment throughout the afternoon sharing a mix of old time country and gospel. Dr. John Way and Sue Sprout each led two tours – John focused on the property's geology and Sue discussed the various plants found on the property.

Between tours, or instead of tours, the attendees enjoyed an array of appetizers and desserts. Offerings varied from shrimp salad on toast points to mini-chocolate cupcakes with peanut butter frosting.

The food and good conversation were supplemented with a Chinese auction and silent auction. The Chinese

auction included gift baskets (Ed's Market and Hallie Luppert), pottery from Anne Meyer, an Orvis flyrod (Slate Run Tack Shop), potted dahlias (Tebbs Farms), a Patagonia suitcase (Holcombe Group), and a blanket with matching pillow (Woolrich, Inc.). Mary and Greg Zeitler donated a dinner buffet and cocktails as a silent auction item as well.



The NPC Lochabar Spring Fundraiser says "Thank You" to...

Ted & Judee Lyon
Bridge Tavern
Bullfrog Brewery
Rosanne Casale-Bolsar
Mary Cosgrove
Andra DeHart-Robbins
First Quality
Fish Real Estate
Joanna's Italian Bakery & Specialties
Hallie & Chuck Luppert
Lycoming College
Lycoming Mall
New Mountain Tavern
Peter Herdic House
Carl & Opal Schlappi
Sue Sprout
Tom & Beth Stubler
Tony's Deli
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John Way
Mary & Greg Zeitler
Gail & Mel Zimmerman