



"Protecting and Preserving Lands and Landmarks"

## Report to the Membership

Volume 12, Issue 2  
Spring 2002

# NORTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY

### River Conservation Plan Update

*In 2012, the lower West Branch Susquehanna River will be a healthy river corridor that enhances everyone's quality of life. The river's health will be demonstrated through improved water quality, increased wetlands and riparian buffers, and improved habitat. The river valley's health will be demonstrated by communities that are aware of and respect their heritage, are linked to each other by a continuous greenway, have protected their viewsheds, and have reduced the flood hazards in their community. This will be accomplished by educating the residents in the river corridor; advocating for the river; fostering quality economic development that supports livable communities.*

Much work has been done on the Lower West Branch Susquehanna River Conservation Plan (RCP) in the past couple of months. The Steering Committee developed a working vision (outlined above) which is intended to help explain succinctly what the RCP is striving to achieve.

Additionally, the consultants are in the process of preparing a draft plan. To help determine what ideas or projects the public is interested in, six meetings were held in March to update the RCP's progress and to determine what ideas gathered during the 2001 Listening Campaign were widely agreed with. The meetings were held at locations throughout the corridor and over 125

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### The Old House Road Show

Did you know that the United States Census Report shows that one-third of the houses in Pennsylvania were built before 1940? And did you know that if you live in one of these homes, you are helping to preserve our open space, farmland, forests, and the natural environment?

The Old House Road Show, brought to homeowners by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and other statewide and local preservation organizations, aims to give homeowners the tools necessary to make repairs to their older homes. If you own one of these homes, make plans to attend the show on May 3-4 at the Ice House, 56 River Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

For an entrance fee of five dollars, you can get the best advice about your old

*OLD HOUSE continued on page 5.*

### And the Winner is...

After nearly one-thousand hours spent by NPC volunteers and staff selling 28,971 tickets, the winner of the Protect and Preserve 2001 Quilt raffle was drawn by Jackie Voss of Pennsylvania Outdoor Life at the Trout Kickoff in the Pickelner Arena in March.

A huge thanks goes out to our corporate donor, the Holiday Inn of Williamsport, for donating the cost of the quilt. We are also grateful to all of the members and volunteers who gave up their free time to man booths all over the region and sell tickets. Many thanks to all the local businesses whose support of the quilt project helped make it a success! Finally, thanks to all who purchased tickets to support NPC.

And the lucky winner was...Roe Campbell, of Elmira, NY, who decided to take the cash prize of \$2,500 instead of the quilt. The quilt will now be auctioned off at this year's Annual Dinner (see "Dinner to Feature Quilt Auction" on page 3 for more information). Of course, the big winners in this raffle, which raised nearly \$27,000 for NPC, are members of future generations who will be able to enjoy the natural resources of our region that NPC's members, volunteers and staff work so hard to conserve. ♦

Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life!

~John Muir

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people attended.

After a brief update on the plan's progress and a demonstration of the videologging that was done, participants divided up into groups based on area of interest. There are approximately 12 Management Groups that currently exist for the Lower West Branch Susquehanna River Conservation Plan. These groups were created as a way to organize the information gathered during the 2001 Listening Campaign. This "Campaign" is made up of the March 2001 public meetings, the municipal questionnaire sent out in June 2001, and interviews held over the summer of 2001.

Below you will find the names of the 12 groups and a brief summary. During the March 2002 meetings, the participants worked with a facilitator and reviewed a questionnaire. The questionnaire was organized into the 12 management groups and contained the public comments. Since the purpose of these meetings was to determine what ideas people supported and were interested in, some of the ideas found in the questionnaire contradicted each other. The group was reminded that

the ideas in the questionnaire were the ideas from the public, not ideas created by the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy or the project team.

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As they reviewed a management group, participants were asked to "vote" on each idea. They could vote that they strongly agreed, agreed, were neutral, strongly disagreed, or disagreed, with the idea. They also had the opportunity to provide additional ideas or projects that were not in the questionnaire.

The results of these meetings will help the Steering Committee gain a better understanding of what ideas people are interested in, what ideas need further clarification, and what ideas are missing from the RCP.

## **MANAGEMENT GROUPS**

### **Conservation and Natural Resources**

Conservation is one of the main purposes for developing a river conservation plan. At every meeting, participants in the public involvement activities expressed conservation of the study area's resources as a priority. Ideas included maintaining and conserving the open space, wetlands, and riparian buffers that currently exist in the river corridor. People also discussed their interest in ensuring the fisheries in this area are healthy. There was also a desire to ensure fish migration around, or over, the dams found in the study corridor.

### **Economic Development**

Traditionally, the communities throughout the study corridor have relied on manufacturing to supply jobs. The citizens participating in the river conservation plan process saw tourism and outdoor recreation as economic development ideas that should be explored. The specific ideas in this area ranged from increased regional marketing of tourism, improving specific recreational assets, to providing an incubator program to assist new businesses.

### **Education**

People recognized that increasing their knowledge and understanding and that of their neighbors is an important component of the river conservation plan. Without understanding the river, its resources, and how we impact them, it will be difficult to improve our stewardship of the resource. Participants were interested in educational activities for all ages on the river, at the river banks, and in the classroom.

### **Flooding and Floodplan Management**

Flooding is an issue that impacts different areas of the study corridor in different ways. The participants recognize that you cannot stop highwater events from occurring, but there are ways to minimize the impact that the water has on the communities that line its banks. Various ideas and remedies were offered, including converting flood-prone areas to open space, and encouraging the watershed associations to continue their efforts to restore the tributaries in the study corridor.

### **Historic Preservation**

The study corridor is extremely rich in historic resources. The citizens participating in the public involvement activities were interested in seeing historic sites and resources not only preserved, but also learning more about those resources. People were interested in historic markers, interpretive signage, and brochures that would explain the region's heritage.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Although there were not specific suggestions from the public regarding this management group, many of the public's desired outcomes will need changes at the municipal planning level. Ideas ranged from re-examining existing zoning and subdivision ordinances to providing training and educational opportunities for municipalities

*RIVER continued on page 4.*

*Note: Due to the amount of information in this Winter 2002 newsletter, the Membership Activity will be printed in the Summer 2002 issue.*

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## NPC Mission Revised

During its annual planning meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed NPC's mission statement. The group felt that it should be updated to more accurately reflect what NPC is working to accomplish. The following mission was approved by the Board at its February 18, 2002 Board meeting:

*The mission of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is to conserve, protect, and utilize lands, landmarks, and waterways of special natural, cultural, and historic value for the enjoyment and well being of present and future generations.*

*NPC works to provide long-term stewardship of natural and physical resources by the conservation and preservation of forests, waterways, wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, and significant historic sites and structures.*

*NPC is a nonprofit organization of individual members and corporate sponsors, which seeks to accomplish its mission through the acquisition and management of real property and interests in real property, public education and nonpartisan governmental involvement. It seeks to encourage and develop cooperative working relationships between private and public interests.*

## Dinner to Feature Quilt Auction

If you were broken-hearted over not winning the Protect & Preserve 2001 Quilt, there is hope. You still have a chance to take home this gorgeous quilt, designed and crafted by internationally-known quilt artist Anne Morrell-Robinson. The quilt raffle winner decided to take the cash prize instead, so NPC will be offering the quilt to the highest bidder in an auction to be held at this year's Annual Dinner (our thanks to Roan's Inc., for agreeing to donate their auctioneering services). Come to dinner prepared to bid!

The Annual Dinner will be held May 7 at 7 p.m. at DiSalvo's Restaurant, and will also feature the annual election of Directors and updates on NPC projects, including the Lower West Branch Susquehanna River Conservation Plan.

Once again, Chef Vince and the DiSalvo Family are generously donating the cost of the meal, meaning that the cost of your ticket will directly benefit NPC. Join us for what is sure to be an excellent dinner to benefit a great cause. Give us a call at 570-323-6222 to make your reservations! ♦



Jerry Walls and Gary Harris compare notes on who earned the best tips at Celebrity Waiter Night.

## Celebrity Waiter Night a Success

This year's Celebrity Waiter Night at the Peter Herdic House was a success, bringing over \$2,100 to NPC. Many thanks are in order, for the generosity of the patrons who attended and to the celebrity waiters who gave up their Friday evening in support of NPC. We'd like to thank the following celebrity waiters for their gracious efforts:

Gail Bair	Sam Judson
John Best	Rick Mason
Rep. Steven Cappelli	Mark Shuman
Dr. Angela Haas	Kirby Smith
Gary Harris	Jerry Walls
Bill Hawkes	Terry Wild
Gary Hutchinson	Mary Wolf
Dr. William Judson	

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Special thanks to Gloria and Marcia Miele for their generosity in hosting our event at the Peter Herdic House, and to their staff for their assistance. ♦

## Julie Joins NPC Staff

There is a new face around the NPC offices. Julie Adams has joined the NPC staff as our new Development Coordinator. As Development Coordinator, Julie's responsibilities will include fundraising and development, special event coordination, individual and business membership recruitment and retention, and public outreach.

Julie comes to NPC after having worked for Pennsylvania College of Technology and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. She is a graduate of Lycoming College, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in both political science and economics. She and her husband, Gregory, live in Eagles Mere with their Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Madison, and Maine Coon Cat, Woody. ♦

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## Maple Sugar Breakfast

*RIVER continued from page 2.*

On Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, young and “older” alike enjoyed the tantalizing tastes of maple syrup over warm pancakes, along with sausage and scrambled eggs, at NPC’s Maple Sugar Outing. Hosted by PPL’s Montour Preserve, the outing enticed approximately 35 NPC members and friends.

The first order of business was the delicious breakfast provided by the Preserve, complete with their own-made maple syrup. Following breakfast, participants were treated to a presentation about the history and process of making maple sugar by PPL naturalist Jon Beam. Jon’s presentation included a video titled, “The Maple Sugar Farmer.” Leaving the breakfast dishes on the table, the group then walked the short distance to the Preserve’s sugarbush for a look at the sap-producing trees and got a brief introduction to the tools used in gathering sap by PPL Land Manager Fred Gast. Participants were surprised to learn that the sap, in its original form, actually looks and tastes just like water (verified by on-the-spot taste testing)!

The finale was watching part of the syrup-making process in the Preserve’s “Sugar Shack.” Preserve staff demonstrated how the sap is boiled down until it reaches the perfect consistency to be dubbed maple syrup. Further processing will also yield maple candy, which has a fudge-like consistency. With both body and mind satisfied, program participants ambled off through the sugarbush and Preserve for some final exploring, or in the case of some, headed home for that perfect ending to a perfect day — a nap!

Special thanks to PPL Montour Preserve superintendent, NPC Board member Kevin Drewencki, and his staff for an excellent program and delicious food, as well as their donation of an additional \$1,500 to NPC’s land protection program! ♦

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### Office Wish List

The holiday season may be several months away, but we've got a wish list already! Donating items to NPC has a double benefit to you: first, you gain the space that an item was taking up, and second, you get the satisfaction of knowing that you helped further NPC’s efforts to ensure that this region will retain its natural beauty. Please check out the list below and consider donating one or more of the items to NPC.

- Filing cabinets
- Dorm-size fridge
- Map case/map storage
- Frequent flyer miles
- Easels for flipcharts

and their employees.

### Sports and Recreation

This was another large area of interest. People use the river and its corridor for a variety of recreational pursuits and want to continue their use and improve the recreational facilities on the river’s banks. People provided ideas for specific locations as well as generalized ideas for the corridor. One concern expressed at every meeting, that cannot be fully addressed by this study, is how to balance all the desired river uses.

### Viewscales

The river formed its valley millions of years ago. The mountains that create the river valley also create breathtaking views and provide the region with a sense of identity. The public expressed interest in conserving the open space of the mountain sides to preserve the views. The public was also concerned about the views of the river. Citizens were interested in cleaning up the litter that lines the river banks every spring.

### Water Resource Use

Without water, there would be no river. People recognize the needs the river meets, drinking water and irrigation water among others. However, the public also recognizes that improper consumption and drought conditions cause a strain on the river, the habitats it creates, and the wildlife that need its resources. Recommendations and ideas generated by the public included looking at stormwater management practices and encouraging water conservation.

### Water Safety

The river’s recreational use creates a wide range of safety concerns. The dams that create pools of water used by motorized boaters also create hazards for those boaters, canoeists, and others. Participants recognized that portage trails around dams and signage at dams would help lessen the risks at these potential hazards. Participants also felt that educating river users about potential hazards is an important aspect of water safety.

### Water Quality

Many people talked about their memories of the river from childhood and how the water had improved since then. "Maintaining and improving the water quality" was brought out of the "conservation and natural resources" option due to its importance to the overall plan. Continued monitoring of the water was identified as important. People recognized the importance of maintaining sewage and waste water treatment facilities.

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In addition, erosion and sedimentation control was recognized as an important aspect of maintaining or improving the river's water quality.

### Greenway

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources asked the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy to include a greenway within the Lower West Branch Susquehanna River Conservation Plan. A greenway in its most simple form is a linear corridor of open, or green, space. Greenways, a combination of public and private land, take various forms and can include open space, wetlands, riparian buffers, parks, and designated walking/bike ways.

The greenway that is taking shape for the study corridor will contain open space areas with no public access, that provide water filtration, wildlife habitat, and other conservation values. Additionally, there will be sections of the greenway that are proposed walking/bike trails to provide citizens with not only a recreational area, but also a way to travel through the corridor.

Keep an eye on your mailbox and NPC's website for more information on how you can get involved with this River Conservation Plan. Please remember, the Lower West Branch River Conservation Plan is only a document. Implementation of ideas and actions in the document will only happen if there is support for a particular action. ♦

### Videologging Complete

The videologging of the Lower West Branch Susquehanna River is done! Videologging, a fairly new technology, involves a helicopter flying over the area to be recorded with a videocamera attached to a Geographic Positioning System (GPS). Each frame of video is labeled with the latitude and longitude. These coordinates tie the video into a GPS database. Using a computer, you can then "fly" a segment of the river, or review the land use, or hydrology of a river segment.

During the March 2002 River Conservation Plan meetings NPC "unveiled" the tool (funded through a Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grant). A demonstration is planned at the various Spring dinners. NPC is almost ready, but definitely willing and able to visit your organization or group to show you the videologging. Contact René Carey at [rcarey@npcweb.org](mailto:rcarey@npcweb.org) or 570-323-6222 if you are interested. ♦

house projects or problems from registered architects, master carpenters, house painters, landscape architects, architectural historians, and other specialists in old houses. This is your chance to talk with experts who have hands-on knowledge about repairing slate roof shingles, reconstructing porch columns, restoring plaster walls, or rebuilding boxed gutters. You can even reserve time to speak with an architect, landscape architect, material conservationist, color and paint specialist, interior designer, and banker.

In addition, several experts will present demonstrations throughout the two-day show. For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at 717-783-9922, or check out their website at [www.phmc.state.pa.us](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us). ♦

### Back By Popular Demand

Because we have received many requests for those wonderful embroidered denim NPC shirts that we have offered in the past (thanks to the assistance of NPC members Jim and Cheryl Redmond) we are taking orders again. To place your order, simply fill out the form below.



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#### Denim Shirt Order Form

Order Deadline May 17, 2002

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: S M L XL XXL

Size: S M L XL XXL

Size: S M L XL XXL

Size: S M L XL XXL

Total # of shirts: \_\_\_\_\_

\$30 per shirt x number of shirts = \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping at \$3.20 per shirt = \_\_\_\_\_

**Order total=** \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check made payable to NPC and mail to us at:

NPC  
320 E. Third Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Williamsport PA 17701

## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

320 East Third Street, 2nd Floor

Williamsport, PA 17701

570-323-6222

<http://www.npcweb.org/>

Non-Profit Rate

**PAID**

Permit No. 107

Williamsport, PA

17701

*Return Service Requested*

### NPC Calendar of Events

#### APRIL

20 •Earth Day Celebration at Franco's

28 •Bluebird Trail Hike

(Williamsport Municipal Water Authority)

#### MAY

7 •Annual Meeting and Dinner

#### JUNE

29 •Eagles Mere Conservancy/NPC Hike

(Ketchum Run)

#### AUGUST

5 •Paddling Clinic

#### SEPTEMBER

12 •5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Classic Golf Outing

22 •Farandsville River Cliffs Hike

#### OCTOBER

18 •Art Exhibition

19 •Pine Creek Float Trip

For more information on these events, please contact Julie Adams at [jadams@npcweb.org](mailto:jadams@npcweb.org) or 323-6222.



*A big thank you goes out to these businesses for helping to make the Protect & Preserve 2001 quilt project a huge success!*

### A Good Time had by All on Jacoby Hollow Falls Hike

NPC sponsored a hike to Jacoby Hollow Falls in January to celebrate the acquisition of the Smithgall Ging property, which was recently transferred to state ownership. Acquisition of the property resulted in better access to the falls, a popular destination for Boy Scout troops. Forty-seven people participated in the hike which, according to several participants, provided an incredible view of the frozen waterfall.