



"Conserving working farms and forests"

Report to the Membership

Volume 16, Issue 3
Summer 2006

NORTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY

Annual Dinner – A Great Event

DiSalvo's in Williamsport was the location for NPC's Annual Dinner and business meeting this year. Shirley Durrwachter chaired the May 10, 2006 event. Over 100 people attended and were treated to a wonderful meal. For the third year the evening included a silent auction of items donated by NPC members and supporters (see page 3).

A project update was the "program" for the evening. Staff highlighted the three conservation easements completed since last year's dinner, and also gave attendees an update on several land acquisition projects. The NPC display provided photos and further information about these projects.

Attendees also received a gift from DiSalvo's. Vince II and his sister, Marisa, provided all the attendees with a special dining offer. To thank the attendees for their support of NPC, the siblings furnished certificates for half off a dinner entrée with the purchase of another. Any excuse to dine at DiSalvo's is a good one, and Vince and Marisa provided a great one! ❖

2006 Land Conservation Conference Garners Lots of Interest

The 2006 Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference was held April 28-29 in State College. This year's attendance more than doubled any previous year's

conference, with 325 people gathered from across Pennsylvania. Throughout the Commonwealth interest in land conservation is increasing as development spreads across rural landscapes — impacting farmland, forests, wildlife habitat

and open space. The conference, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA), featured four all-day seminars on Friday and 24 ninety-minute workshops on Saturday.

Renee' Carey, NPC's Executive Director, received an award for her six years of service on PALTA's Board of Directors – including the past two years as PALTA's President.

The Keynote Address and one of the Friday seminars was given by Stephen Small, the nation's leading expert on land protection. In his presentation he discussed conservation easement agreements and tax

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"It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours."

- John F. Kennedy



NPC Golf Tournament Nearing

NPC's golf committee has a date, location, and menu set. Flyers and letters have been sent out. The planning for this year's tournament is well underway! This year's tournament is set for Monday, September 25 at the White Deer Golf Course.

Sponsorship and registration information can be found at www.npcweb.org.

The tournament has more contests and prizes than ever before. We've added closest to the line (or straightest drive) and closest to the pin on the second shot, for both men and women. All players will receive a small, soft-sided cooler courtesy of the event host, Citizens and Northern Bank. The cooler will be filled with goodies to sustain players as they make their way around the 18 holes. So make plans to play--register now! ❖

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Silent Auction Success

Island Donation to NPC

...and much more!

Membership Activity from 4/1/2006 through 5/31/2006

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 membership and show YOUR support to them.

American Kestrel (\$500-749)

Citizens & Northern Bank
Girton Manufacturing Co.
Lycoming County
Conservation District

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Bald Eagle Township
Cromaglass Corporation
Lamar Advertising
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Annual Dinner Donors

DiSalvo's
Gerald Bride
Alfred W. Buck
Mary Chancellor
Joan C. Gingrich

Silent Auction Donors

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Shirley Durrwachter
Susan M. Durrwachter
Wayne &
Connie Livingston
Parsons Hot Glass
Pine Creek Outfitters
Charles & Helen Schwarz
The Terry Wild Studio
Tracie Witter Pottery

Fishing Creek Project Donations

Columbia County
Chapter Trout Unlimited
Paul W. Duck
Hugh & Eileen Richards

GENERAL MEMBERS

Bobcat (\$1000- 4999)

Joanne Fisher

Black Bear (\$500- 999)

Joseph Cramer
Ray & Shelly Mattie
Leslie & Adrienne Noelk
Alan Viani &
Jane Morgenstern

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White-tailed Deer (\$250- 499)

Richard &
Susan Sprout
Dr. Marshall Welch
Whistle Pig Fishing Club

Black Cherry (\$100- 249)

Andrew Bamford
Malcolm Barlow
Stephen &
Stephanie Budman
Thomas &
Laurie Burkholder
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Doug & Frani Doherty
Katherine & Sean Erno
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Dr. Samuel Rockey
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Rich & Alice Trowbridge

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Patricia B. Hart
Wayne Laubscher
Wayne &
Connie Livingston
William & Susan Martens
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Mary Jo McKeever
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McCormick Law Firm
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Memorials

Art Harrison
Alissa du Bois

Robert Raemore
George & Shirley
Durrwachter

Helen Sechler
William & Ruth Correll
Chris & Sherry Dwyer

Jack Whiting, Jr.
Alissa du Bois

Is NPC in Your Will?

Remembering NPC in your will can be a way to leave a legacy to future generations. If you will a gift to NPC, please be sure that you have designated your gift to "Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy," federal employee id number 23-2606163. There are many organizations that use the word "conservancy", so please include our full name to ensure that your wishes are carried out as you intend.

Members Make NPC Successful

NPC's members are the source of funding that allows us to work on land protection projects. Your membership dues and contributions pay for mileage, phone, electricity and all those other things NPC needs, but which aren't as glamorous as surveys and appraisals.

Your membership is also important because your support demonstrates that this region is committed to conserving a working, rural landscape and the waterways that flow through. This support is powerful when working with property owners, state agencies, and foundations. This year NPC is working to increase the number of people who recognize and support NPC.

Yes, we know you're a NPC member...and we are grateful for your support. However, a mailing you may soon be getting might make you wonder if NPC really does know you are one of us. In an effort to reach as many residents in northcentral Pennsylvania as we can, NPC determined it is important that we have direct mail contact with people who share the same feelings about land conservation as our members. The Nature Conservancy, that national organization which people sometimes confuse with our local conservancy, seemed like a great contact group.

We have entered into an agreement with a direct mail contractor who has approval from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to share their names and address lists. NPC will be sending letters to approximately 10,000 TNC members in September. The contractor does not give us access to the names and addresses ourselves; we need to give them direct contact with our mailing house, who must commit to destroying the list after they use it for our mailing.

If you are a member of The Nature Conservancy, you will probably receive a letter inviting you to join NPC. We know there are many TNC members in our area who are not acquainted with NPC. This is our opportunity to say – "hello, look at us, we're local, doing land conservation that directly affects the people living in northcentral Pennsylvania and you can help." If you get the letter, please understand we really do know you are already a faithful NPC member...but because we don't get to see the mailing list we cannot weed out current members from those we are looking to newly attract.

Keep in mind that **NPC does not share our member mailing list.** However, if you have any questions about the use of our mailing list, please give the NPC office a call. ❖

Member-Get-a-Member Campaign

We have held member-get-a-member campaigns in the past, but this year we are doing it differently.



It is going to be a year-long campaign, filled with giveaways and special promotions. When you receive a letter from NPC, whether it is a renewal reminder or a thank you for your donation, you will also receive two or three membership brochures. Write your name on those brochures and give them to family and friends, encouraging them to join. If they do join, then you and the person who joined will be entered into a monthly raffle drawing. The raffle winners (the new member, and the member who got them to join) will each receive a prize. Next May 2007 we will have (imaginary drum roll please!) the "Really Big Raffle Drawing"!

The Really Big Raffle Drawing will include several different raffle prizes, and ten people will walk away with something terrific. Good luck and thanks for spreading the word! ❖

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strategies for protecting property from development. Other Friday seminars focused on transfer of development rights, fund raising, conflicts of interest, and land protection for beginners.

Topics at Saturday's workshops included conservation and sprawl, baseline documentation, transfer fees, open space referendums, stewardship, farmland preservation, forestry, and Pennsylvania's Natural Heritage Inventory. Charlie Schwarz, NPC's Land Protection Specialist, presented a PowerPoint discussion of NPC's Resource Conservation Module at the baseline documentation session. The Module is completed by NPC's Technical Committee for each protected property, becoming part of the permanent documentation needed to justify and, if necessary, defend a conservation easement.

NPC's staff members and several of our volunteers attended the Conference. Each increased their understanding of land protection techniques, and shared NPC's land protection process with individuals from other organizations. ❖

Down the Susquehanna by Canoe...

... will be a lot easier since PPL donated Byers Island and five smaller islands, totaling 225 acres, to the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy on April 21.

When PPL constructed the power plant at Shamokin Dam it also constructed a dam in the river. That dam provided cooling water to the power plant and spanned the river from the west bank to Byers Island and from the island to the east bank. In the process PPL acquired the islands, ending the long history of farming on Byers Island. Now the islands are tree-covered and provide habitat for a wide variety of river-associated wildlife.

With construction of the dam there was no safe way to travel down the river except by trespassing on the island or banks. NPC is currently working with the Susquehanna River Trail Association to develop a carry trail on the island to safely bypass the dam. This year's Susquehanna Sojourn (June 14 - 22) used the new carry trail on June 17 to complete the journey from Berwick to Safe Harbor Dam.

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As with most land protection efforts, protection of Byers Island took some time. NPC's technical committee first looked at the islands in the spring of 2004 which led to much discussion with PPL as well as efforts to secure funding to cover NPC's costs. Even though in this case the islands were donated, there are many expenses associated with protecting land – including appraisals, title searches, recording of deeds and staff time to name a few.

In the next few months, NPC will be transferring the islands to DCNR's Bureau of Forestry for inclusion in the state forest system. The islands will be permanently protected, providing habitat for wildlife and recreation for travelers on the river, fishermen and hunters. Creation of a camping spot for river travelers is contemplated – it would further enhance recreation on the river.

If you would like a close-up look at Byers Island, join NPC on August 20, 2006 when we travel the eight miles from Shamokin Dam to Port Trevorton in Canoe Susquehanna's big canoes. ❖



Five Elected to Conservancy Board of Directors

During the business portion of the Annual Dinner, Marc Lewis and Kim VanCampen were elected to a second, three year term. Steve Deitrick was elected to his first full, three year term. Mary Cosgrove and David Shipman were elected to their first, three year terms.

Marc Lewis lives in Sullivan County where he manages the sawmill at Dwight Lewis Lumber Company. In addition to his volunteer work with NPC, Marc is involved with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, and helps construct log rafts for historic reenactments. He and his wife, Diane, have two children.

Kim VanCampen works for Susquehanna Health System in the Utilization Review Department. Kim has been a supporter of NPC for many years, and first became involved with NPC through her father, Dean Fisher, one of NPC's earliest Board members. Kim and her husband, Bill, are very active with the Billtown Blues Association. Additionally, Kim volunteers with Leadership Lycoming.

Steve Deitrick joined the Conservancy Board in January 2006 and immediately assumed responsibilities as our Treasurer. Steve is a CPA with Lori Moore & Associates in Montoursville, but also holds a bachelor's degree in forestry. Steve's accounting practice focuses on audit work, which includes review of non-profits such as NPC. Steve is a native of Williamsport and he and his wife, Terri, have two children.

Mary Cosgrove is a native and life-long resident of Sullivan County, where she has worked as a realtor since 1981. She recently sold her business, but remains as the broker of record, and continues to spend time at the office. Most significantly, Mary was involved in the early meetings that lead to the formation of NPC, and in recent years has volunteered her valuable time to help with the NPC events booth. She has five children and several grandchildren.

David Shipman is an attorney and partner with the law firm of Elion, Wayne, Grieco, Carlucci, Shipman and Irwin of Williamsport. Prior to his career as a private attorney, David was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Harrisburg. David often volunteers his professional time and counsel to local and regional conservation issues. David has also been involved with local Little League. He and his wife, Pamela, volunteer extensively in our community in addition to raising two children. ❖



What's Happening with the Greenway?

Implementation! The Greenway Strategic Action Plan identified 8 projects for early implementation that provide benefits including recreation enhancement, environmental stewardship, education, healthy

living, economic development and community revitalization. Of these projects, two are located on the West Branch of the Susquehanna; the Bakerton AMD Project and the Susquehanna RiverWalk.

The Bakerton AMD Project was completed this spring by the Cambria Co. Conservation District and the Bakerton Rod and Gun Club. They used a cost-effective approach to remediate acid mine drainage (AMD), and created a public fishing area that will raise awareness about the implications of water quality on human health and wildlife, and serve as a replicable model for similar grassroots education and remediation efforts.

The Susquehanna RiverWalk will begin construction in early 2007, and is planned as part of the revitalization of the City of Williamsport. The RiverWalk will reconnect residents to the river, create a link into South Williamsport, and provide a hub for a larger regional trail system. For more information on these projects visit <http://susquehannagreenway.org>.

Over the next 6 months NPC will be leading efforts to reorganize the West Branch Regional Committee to develop and prioritize a comprehensive list of projects related to the river. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please contact NPC at events@npcweb.org or call 570-323-6222. ❖



Silent Auction Nets \$1360

NPC is fortunate to have creative members who contributed their special artistic endeavors to our Annual Dinner's Silent Auction. We also had member donations for outdoor activities and a celebrity package. Successful bidders brought in a total of \$1360. Bidding was robust and we are grateful for everyone's interest. The winners are listed below:

**Ann Chase*: print of one of Ron Beach's latest paintings titled "Old Town," picturing a canoe on a lake as inspired by Eagles Mere.

**Bill Worobec*: Terry Wild's photo print "Vine," taken of a downtown Williamsport building

**Shirley Durrwachter*: three delightful pieces of stoneware pottery by Tracie Witter. Shirley looks forward to Tracie's pieces every year!

**Kevin Drewencki*: Deb Parsons' beautifully crafted glass leaf-acorn on a sterling silver slide necklace with matching earrings; and a Cherry Candle Box made by Charlie Schwarz.

**Cheryl Redmond*: sunrise bone pendant cut by Charlie Schwarz (she went home wearing it!)

**John Hibbert*: a watercolor print entitled "Roadside Pickings II" donated by Connie and Wayne Livingston

**Lisa Cramer*: "A Day of Fishing with George Durrwachter" See the photo on this page for a look at Lisa's success at fishing!

**Andra Robbins*: "Pedal or Paddle" package from Pine Creek Outfitters – rafting for two or bike rentals for two on the Pine Creek Trail.

**Wayne Livingston*: package of MSNBC and Imus items (including an autographed coffee mug) contributed by Susan Durrwachter

**Barb Reeder*: "Susquehanna Heartlands" book donated by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission which contains stories and photos of NPC's 12-county area.

Without everyone's generosity and enthusiasm this event would not be possible. Thanks to all contributors, successful bidders and the other bidders who kept the dollars going higher. ❖

Lisa Cramer enjoying her "Day of fishing with George Durrwachter"—One of many fabulous items in this year's auction.

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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NPC 2006 Adventures

July 15 – Ride the Pine Creek Trail

A 22 mile bike ride - from the Clark Farm (between Cammal and Slate Run) to Rattlesnake Rock (below Blackwell) and return. The trip goes through "The Narrows" and passes two bald eagle nests. The scenery is spectacular, wildlife abundant and the company congenial. Final meeting time and location will be set about a week before the trip. Since it's July in PA the trip will be in the morning. Participants will not only need their bikes, but should bring water and a snack. Pre-registration is required.

July 22 – Peace of the Susquehanna Canoe Trip

Join us as Canoe Susquehanna leads us on a seven mile paddle from Montgomery to Watsontown. This quiet section of the river will take us past ruins of an old dam, and the Pennsylvania Canal. The group will meet at 9:00am. Pre-registration with full payment (\$40 per person) is required. Paddlers must be at least 14.

July 29 - Bee Tree Ski Trail

A 6.6 mile, moderate hike led by Bob Ross, Ron Comstock, and Dianne Franco. Hike the Bee Tree Ski Trail on the Tioga State Forest and see the Mengee Property, an acquisition project the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy worked on in 2005. The hike will begin in the morning, and participants are asked to bring a lunch and water. Pre-registration is required.

August 20 – Big Canoe Trip on the Main Stem Susquehanna (We hope)

We'll explore a new section of the river when Canoe Susquehanna brings their "big canoes." The canoes are built in the style the Canadian fur traders used. Each canoe holds 10 paddlers as well as a guide who does all the hard work (the steering). If the water level is too low for the big canoes, we'll use kayaks. The trip will leave the Shady Nook Access area and end at Port Trevorton about eight miles down river. Pre-registration with full payment (\$50 per person) is required. Paddlers must be at least 14.

August 27 – Wandering the Watershed

In conjunction with the Alpine Club, we'll explore old ruins, walk the old roads, visit a deer enclosure, and see a variety of forests. This six and one half mile hike will be on the 11,000 acres Williamsport Watershed. A shorter hike of a little over three miles will be offered.

October 29 – Waterfalls of McIntyre

In conjunction with the Alpine Club we'll pass the waterfalls of Miners Run and go through the location of the old mining village of McIntyre, on our way to a rock outcrop with views of Lycoming Creek valley. On the way back, we'll use the old railroad switchbacks to make our way to Rock Run Road. This rugged, six mile hike will be on the Loyalsock State Forest.

Please call the Conservancy office at 570-323-6222 to pre-register for all outings.

NOTE: Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.