



"Conserving working farms and forests"

Report to the Membership

Volume 17, Issue 1
Winter 2007

NORTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY

NPC Passes 10,000 Acre Mark

NPC has now conserved over 10,000 acres! This is an accomplishment to be recognized and celebrated. It also is an opportunity to reflect on what has already been done and the lessons we take from these projects as we move forward.

One thing NPC has learned during our first 10,000 acre period is that while many people understand why conserving farms and forests is important, other people do not know about NPC's activities. Be proud of our 10,000 acre achievement – YOU helped make it happen. If someone mentions NPC, could you tell them WHAT we are, WHAT we do?

The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is a land trust. We conserve working farms, working forests, and waterways. We don't sound like an organization involved with economic development, or one that fights childhood obesity, or one linked to educating people about global warming. But as a land trust, we provide the tools that allow landowners to create a landscape that is attractive to businesses, contains recreation areas, and helps improve the overall environmental health of the region. How?

Rural Charm – Quality of Life

According to the National Park Service, and the *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*, corporations rank quality of life as the third most important factor in locating a business, while owners of small

NPC Passes (continued on page 3)



Donation with Eye Toward Future

On December 22, Athens residents Dick and Amy Harrigan donated an island in the Susquehanna River, south of the New Athens River Bridge, to NPC. Harrigan Island will eventually be transferred to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry to benefit residents and visitors.

The Harrigans have been enthusiastic canoeists for many years, canoeing as far north as Canada's Prince Edward Island and south to Florida. When their daughters were young, family vacations often centered on canoeing adventures. Later as a twosome, they continued to enjoy canoeing and the beautiful places they could see.

Long-time residents of Bradford County, the Harrigans live in a house along the river where Dick grew up. The island, which is easily visible from the Harrigans'

Donation (continued on page 4)



What's happening with the Greenway?

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership has a new board! Representatives from across the Susquehanna watershed have joined together to take the reins from the Planning Team. The new board members have backgrounds ranging from physician to farmer, politician to librarian. NPC assisted with the process of recruiting then educating new board members about the process of planning for a Susquehanna Greenway.

Alice Trowbridge (NPC's Susquehanna Greenway coordinator) has been working with several groups to ready their projects for spring grant applications. She is also working with a committee to prioritize projects on a regional level. Keep an eye out for more updates about these projects. ❖

Inside:

Membership Activity

Family Farm Protected

Tioga County Easement

Regional Dinners

Year End Appeal Donors

New IRS Donation Rule

...and much more!

Membership Activity from 9/1/2006 through 12/31/2006

Black Bear (\$500-999)

Dale & Mary Bower
J. Robert & Nancy Bower
Ann & John Case
Dr. Kim Herrman
Richard Karp
Rich & Beth Schluter
Dr. Mel & Gail Zimmerman

White-tailed Deer (\$250-499)

Blair & Mary Carbaugh
Len & Jean Collins
Mary Cosgrove
Jeffrey Finke
Harold & Joyce Hershberger
Russ Kimura & Denise Hamby
Walter & Trisha Nicholson
Linda Schramm
Stephen & Christine Sleboda
Robert & Jean Teufel
Jerry & Joy Walls
W. Holmes & Enid Yealy

Black Cherry (\$100-249)

Jay & Juli Alexander
Patricia W. Booth
Marguerite Bierman
James & Cynthia Mengel Bower
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Bowser

2

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Burns
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Burns
Reneé Carey
Richard & Grace Carey
Robert W. Colley

William and Ruth Correll
William & Joyce Davis
Fred W. Dochter
Susan M. Durrwachter
Michael R. & Teri H. Fisher
Timothy and Deborah Green
James Holtzman
Rod & Sue Keller
Oscar W. Knade Jr.
Marc & Diane Lewis
Lloyd Wilson Chapter 223
of Trout Unlimited
Joe Logue
Kenneth & Ann Lundy
Lycoming Audubon Society
Dr. & Mrs. Larry H. Lytle
Honorable Roger A. Madigan
John & Cynthia Metzger
Maxine R. Mills
Jack & Suzanne Murray
Mark & Kim Oberheim
Ken & Jan Oden
Stuart & Judy Olinsky
Ms. Ruth Rode
James C. Rogers
Jane Stahl
Henry & Donna Stutz
Jim & Lynn Tooley
Dr. & Mrs. John Way
Paul O. & Patricia Wentzler
Bill & Pam Worobec
John E. Young

Red Oak (\$50-99)

Carl & Marti Barlett
Dave Barsky
Valerie Beggs
George L. & Penny H. Bower
Daniel Brennan
Bruce & Betty Buckle
Rebecca Burke
Alvin C. & Betty Bush
Ron Butler
Russell E. & Linda M. Campbell
Rose M. Choate
Harold & Nancy Chubb
Kevin R. Cunningham
Bill & Gerri Ann Danilowicz
Kevin and DeAnn Drewencki
Robert B. Elion
Mary R. Engel
Anthony C. Ferraro
Bernette & George Fitzgerald
William & Karen Fry
John & Kay Gault
Jerry & Marian Haag
Egbert & Frances Hall
Diane Himes
Grace Hockenberry
Albert & Christina Hoffman
Tim Holladay & family
Raymond E. Kehrer, Jr.
William Kieser & Jessica Abernathy
Richard P. Lauchle
William Logue
Harold & Shirley Loud
David & Ruth McCord
Otter Run Fish & Game Club
Suzann & Bill Parsons
Birch & Ann Marie S. Phillips
Neil & Shirley Polster
Linda Prior
Dixie Reber
Jack & Joann Rishel
Robert Saeger
Carl W. Schlappi
Henry & Ann Street
Thomas T. Taber
Merle & Vernetta Thomas
David Tregea
David J. & Linda M. Ward
Don & Ruth Weaver
Michael & Cindye Weinhold

Sugar Maple (\$35-49)

Dennis J. Ault
Robert & Joan Bauder
Jeffrey B. Burnham
Meredith Dawes
Marian L. Fetter &
Mark Kleinfelter
Patrice Friant
Charles W. Hummer Sr.
Leon & Rosella Hurst
Mr. & Mrs. Donald King
Paul Martis
Jack & Joan McKee
Lynn & Jacquelyn Overdorff
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Parsons

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Many thanks to our corporate members. Please take note of those businesses which have shown they care about the future of our communities and show YOUR support to them.

Bald Eagle (\$2,000+)

PPL Corporation/Montour
Preserve

American Kestrel (\$500-749)

Columbia Co. Farmers Nat'l Bk.
JBH3 & Associates, Inc.
Jersey Shore State Bank

Small Business (\$100-499)

Beiter's Inc.
Century 21/Wilkinson-Dunn Co.
First National Bank of Berwick
Fish GMAC Real Estate
Irion Lumber Company
Lewis Lumber Products Inc.
Patterson Lumber Co. Inc.
Roan Inc.
Stubler Enterprises, Inc.

Judith Plyler
Patricia A. Reeder
Warren & Cinda Reid
Bill & Ann Roll
Roger & Nancy Shipley
Cynthia Venn
Craig & Mary Vuccola
Dr. Douglas Wion
Gerald A. Wolfe

White Pine (\$25-34)

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Antram
Peggy A. Ault
Alvin G. Binkley
Marian L. Brennan
Brian B. Burger
James & Jan Cameron
Carlson Family Revocable Trust
Casale & Bonner PC
Charles & Kay Chapman
Lois J. Clark
Tom Cosgrove
Molly Costello Daly
Cushes Retreat, Inc.
Timothy & Rita Dincher
Mount Prospect Rifle Club
Alissa du Bois
David Durrwachter &
Carol Brown
Dennis & Holly Dusza
Dave & Lisa Engle
Ferguson Insurance Agency
True Fisher
Lois & Harry Forrester
Martin A. Friday
William & Joan Garman
William Giddings
Samuel & Darlene Godfrey
Stephen & Diane Groff
Oren Helbok
Robert & Margaret Hershey
Randall Hipple
Marguerite B. Hontz
Mackenzie E. Hopkins
Mike Hoy
Frank Johnson
Barry & Shelly Jones
Richard & Jacqueline Kaufman
William & Barbara Kelly
Marc Killingstad
Jim & Donna Kistler
Daniel Lee Kugler
Rosario Kukla

Frances Kuntz
Richard Kyle
Laurel S. La Placa
Sr. Joan Lundy
Alan D. Lunger
Lycoming Co. Pomona Grange
Mike & Betzi Lyon
Jon S. Malsnee
Joanne B. May
Bob & Pat McKernan
Deen & Denise McKillips
Charlotte Mengel
Michael J. Metzger
John & Lillian Michael
Ann F. Rhoads
William & Carol Murray
Candace S. Nevel
Susan O'Donnell
Michael & Jeanne Rapp
James H. Maguire
Emily Rizzo
Paul T. Rothrock
Bill & Mary Jo Saxe
Helen M. Schad
William S. Seward
Steve Stroman
Raymond & Virginia Thompson
Victoria Todd
John A. Troisi
B. J. Van Ess
Grethel Vinup
Norman E. Wengert
Loretta Wilkinson
George Windolph
Michael M. Wittich
Claude & Mae Zerby
Edwin & Merlene Young
Allan N. Young

Additional Donations

Susquehanna River Trail Assn.
Gladys Magill
Linda & Dan Wolfe
Slingerland's Landscaping
Parente Randolph LLC
Larson Design Group
Cathy & Tom Shannon
McDonald's
Sovereign Bank
Mike and Kelly Crist
North Branch Land Trust
Dan Reinhold
Steve & Beth Bason



The protection of this Tioga County farm brings the total acres protected in Charleston Township to more than 750 acres.

50+Year Family Farm Protected

In December a Tioga County resident entered into a conservation easement agreement with NPC for her 97 acre farm in Charleston Township.

The Nicholas farm has been in the family for over 50 years, initially as a dairy farm; today, hay is the primary crop. The property has 63 acres of farmland, 34 acres of woodland, and 3,600 feet of tributaries to the Tioga River, as well as almost 1400 feet of frontage on a public road, contributing to the scenic beauty of Tioga County.

This protected property, added to four others, makes a total of more than 750 acres under easement with NPC in Charleston Township.

By conserving her land, Mrs. Nicholas has greatly increased the likelihood that her farm will remain in production for years to come. The impact of her decision extends beyond her property line. This farm is important to the vitality of Tioga County and its agricultural landscape. It's good to know that productive farmland is not going to be growing houses.

Like other properties protected by a conservation easement, the Nicholas property remains in private ownership and can be purchased and sold just like other lands. However, the easement will permanently remain on the property, binding all future owners, and ensuring the property will remain undeveloped. ❖

3

NPC Passes (continued from page 1)

companies ranked recreation/parks/open space as their highest priority in locating a business. How does this tie into NPC's work? All the farms and forests NPC has worked to conserve maintain the rural charm of this region. The properties that are now in public ownership provide public recreation areas for hunting, fishing, hiking and other activities, and a land base that can provide raw materials. The privately owned properties NPC has protected provide the region with farm products as well as raw materials.

Public Recreation Opportunities

The American Obesity Association indicates that causes of childhood obesity include a lack of recreational facilities and lack of regular exercise. It doesn't sound like land protection would tie into this, but it does. Besides the properties now in public ownership, NPC has also protected some private properties that include provisions for public access, which provide body-healthy recreation opportunities. There are places for young and old to be active right now, and opportunities to instill the pleasures of lifetime activities in children. Families and community groups who recreate together will continue the love of outdoor pastimes for generations.

Carbon Storage / Clean Waterways

Even if there is debate on the issue of global warming, there is agreement across the scientific community that forest plants and soils store carbon. Carbon release is cited as a cause of global warming. Forests help regulate rainfall, allow for groundwater recharge, and filter sediment from rainwater before it enters streams or rivers (think Chesapeake Bay recovery here). So, all those acres of forests NPC has conserved are helping to store carbon and clean up Pennsylvania's waters. ❖

Pine Creek Property Update

NPC is in the process of preparing a property along Pine Creek in Brown Township, Lycoming County, for transfer to the Bureau of Forestry. The transfer should occur sometime during 2007. NPC is working with two neighboring property owners to clarify boundaries before the transfer to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as it is much easier for NPC to deal with these boundary issues now than for the Bureau of Forestry to resolve them later.

One boundary issue required NPC and the neighboring owner to submit a plan to Lycoming County's Planning Commission. We are exchanging portions of the property NPC owns for a portion of an adjacent property, to create straighter boundary lines. The plan was approved so now the process can continue.

In addition, NPC is discussing possible habitat improvement projects with the Bureau of Forestry. Watch for volunteer opportunities associated with these habitat projects. If we can work out the logistics, we will need lots of help! ❖



Irions Help Maintain Tioga County's Rural Character

In early December, Lou and Wanda Irion of Wellsboro established their second conservation easement agreement with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, this time protecting 58 acres of their property in Tioga County's Delmar Township. The property contains 27 acres of cropland and 31 acres of woodland. It is known as the Griffin Hill Easement.

At the same time, the Irions expanded an existing conservation easement. They added 18 acres of recently purchased woodland to the 100 acres protected by an agreement established with NPC in 2004. That property is in Charlestown Township. Together the Irions and NPC have protected 176 acres of contiguous woodland and farmland.

The Irions moved to Tioga County in 1997, where they operate the Irion Lumber Co which specializes in high quality figured lumber for furniture makers and architectural millwork. They previously lived in Chester County, where Mr. Irion produced high quality reproductions of 18th and early 19th century furniture and initially established his lumber business, and Mrs. Irion restored antique furniture. While living in Chester County, they had protected their property on Octoraro Creek with a conservation easement.

Lou and Wanda not only feel strongly about limiting development on their land, they also want to share the message of land conservation with others. They initiated their easement agreements with NPC because they want to help maintain Tioga County's rural character.

In southeastern Pennsylvania they witnessed towns previously surrounded by farmland, overcome by developmental sprawl. Understanding that this same sprawl can happen in northern Pennsylvania, Lou and Wanda wanted keep the identity of their land, and especially provide unbroken habitat for wildlife. Protecting wild and agricultural land from development is important for all of us. ❖

Regional Dinners = Great Programs

What do trail extensions and hellbenders have in common? They were both topics at NPC's regional dinners this fall!

Jim Weaver, Tioga County Planning, provided the attendees of the Tioga County Dinner with an update and information on the idea of extending the Pine Creek Trail into Wellsboro. His slides from a tour of one possible route allowed the group to see the upcoming challenges, while the concept had them interested and excited about the prospect.

Dr. Peter Petokas, Lycoming College Clean Water Institute, not only had photos showing what a hellbender looks like, he had two live hellbenders. Dr. Petokas and his student research assistants are inventorying and studying hellbenders in many of the larger tributaries to the West Branch Susquehanna River. Their summers are spent in the water, looking for hellbenders and studying the habitat where they are found.

Dr. Petokas spent one day this summer with twelve Future Farmers of America students taking part in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Expedition Susquehanna. The students not only learned about hellbenders, they got to snorkel and observe them in their habitat. Those of you in WVIA-TV's broadcasting area, keep an eye out for a documentary about the students' journey, including Dr. Petokas and the hellbender. ❖

Donation (continued from page 1)

yard, was offered for sale in 2005. They purchased the island as an opportunity to provide a camping spot for canoeists traveling down the Susquehanna. The Harrigans said, "We have a lot of fond memories of using the island and want to see it available for the public to use."

Robert Veleker, Executive Director of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc. told NPC, "The Harrigans are to be applauded for their vision and great love of the river. At public meetings for the North Branch Rivers Conservation Plan several years ago, at which the Harrigans actively participated, the need was identified for more water access points and places to camp along the river." The Harrigans have helped fulfill that need.

The donation of Harrigan Island will benefit canoeists for generations. Thank you Amy and Dick! ❖

"The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively: the land."

- Aldo Leopold (1887-1948)

Thank You

Year End Appeal Donors

Thank you to everyone who donated during NPC's Year End Appeal. The following provided donations we received through December 31, 2006. Additional donors will be listed in the Spring newsletter.

Dennis J. Ault
Warren &
Mary Lou Baldys
Ted & Tracey Barbour
Malcolm Barlow
Steve & Beth Bason
Jonathan Bastian
Valerie Beggs
Peg Berry
Marguerite Bierman
Virginia Borek
Dr. & Mrs. John L. Brown
Stephen &
Stephanie Budman
Blair & Mary Carbaugh
Reneé Carey
Len & Jean Collins
Loretta & Bob Coltrane
R. Lowell Coolidge
Coploff Ryan & Welch
Frederick S. Crafts
Matthew & Lisa Cramer
Dorothy D. Cupper
Glenn Davis
Andra DeHart-Robbins
Fred W. Dochter
Doug & Frani Doherty
Martin & Jean Doughty
James A. Drobile Esq.
Thomas Duck

Paul W. Duck
George &
Shirley Durrwachter
Susan M. Durrwachter
Anthony C. Ferraro
Michael R. & Teri H.
Fisher
Joanne Fisher
David K. Gilpin
Joan C. Gingrich
Mr. & Mrs. Law Groner
Egbert & Frances Hall
John M. Hallgren
Gordon & Mary Hiller
Hilsher Graphics
Toner & Kathy Hollick
Rudolph Holtzman
Mrs. Mabel Huggins
Ronald & Martina
Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Johnson
Raymond E. Kehrer, Jr.
Marc Killingstad
Woodlands Bank
Frances Kuntz
Wayne Laubscher
Josephine Lewis
Marc & Diane Lewis
Charles & Fay Lindrooth
Charlie Lockard

Douglas Loffredo
Herman & Molly Logue
Ms. Idell Ludwig
Kenneth & Ann Lundy
Raymond M. Lyon
Hon. Roger A. Madigan
Gilbert L. Maton
James &
Cynthia Mengel Bower
Max Mitchell
Candace S. Nevel
Robert & Sarah Newcomb
Leslie & Adrienne Noelk
Susan O'Donnell
Drs. Eberhard &
Mary Passarge
John & Charlotte Person
Tom & Marsha Person
William & Nancy Pfeiffer
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Pribble
Joseph H. Radley
Michael & Jeanne Rapp
James & Cheryl Redmond
Patricia A. Reeder
Ed & Tink Reish
James W. Rich & Family
Clifford A. Rieders
Roan Inc.
James C. Rogers
H. Kenneth & Marilyn Ruhl

MAS Printing
Annie Sanders
Rich & Beth Schluter
Linda Schramm
Charles & Helen Schwarz
Mark Shuman
Richard & Susan Sprout
David & Louise Stone
Albert & Judith Styrcula
Robert & Jean Teufel
Carolee & Dick Thatcher
David Tregua
William &
Kimberly Van Campen
B. J. Van Ess
Chalmer &
Ruth Ann Van Horn
Robert &
Rose Ann Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Harry
Webster III
Michael &
Cindy Weinhold
Wheeland Lumber Co. Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Wieder
J. Michael Williamson
Bill & Pam Worobec
Edwin & Merlene Young
Allan N. Young
John E. Young

5

Memorials

Bill Hosler
by Sheryl & Karyn Hosler

Bill Hosler
by Charles &
Helen Schwarz

James Tolbert
by John & Patricia Bond

James Tolbert
by Agnes Morean

James Tolbert
by Glen & Barbara Tolbert

James Tolbert
by Tillie &
Joyce Hoagland

William Williams
by Jane Williams

James Bowes
by Jane Stahl

Raymond Drewencki
by Les & Adrienne Noelk

Honorarium

Ralph & Gloria Lovette
Les & Adrienne Noelk
James & Jan Cameron
Don & June Houser
by Chris & Sherry Dwyer

A. Robert &
Pauline Walker
by Jane Stahl

New IRS Donation Rules

We know you keep the thank you letters NPC sends for the "sentimental value." Now there is another reason to keep those letters. The IRS requires that donors have written substantiation of all gifts to non-profits. Our thank you letters meet IRS requirements for substantiating income tax deductions.

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy
PO Box 2083
Williamsport, PA 17703
570-323-6222
<http://www.npcweb.org/>

NON-PROFIT ORG
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 201
WILLIAMSPORT, PA

Return Service Requested

NPC Notes and Notables

First Fridays in Downtown Williamsport



If you haven't visited NPC during a recent First Friday, you missed seeing Roger Shipley's classes exhibit of water color paintings from Rock Run; David Orth's photographs of the region's wildlife and wild places; and Lisa Peacock's photographs from Black Moshannon State Park and Rose Valley Lake. Don't worry! NPC has more shows lined up for 2007:

March – Lycoming College students, Elizabeth Runyan and Brittany Lytle, will be exhibiting paintings

April – Tracie Witter is bringing her pottery to NPC's exhibit space

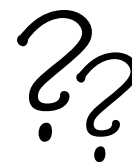
Keep an eye on the newsletter and our website for more updates and information.

Is NPC in Your Will?

If you will a gift to NPC, please be sure that you have designated your gift to "Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy," federal employee identification 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.

Questions to Ponder...

Can NPC sell or use the development rights it obtains through a conservation easement? NO...A land trust like NPC does not actually hold the rights given up by a landowner through a conservation easement, but rather holds the right to enforce the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights in the future. Under an easement, development and other affirmative rights in the land are extinguished and, in theory and practice, no longer exist—and therefore cannot be exercised by anyone in the future.



Why should land use be restricted forever through a conservation easement? Landowners voluntarily agree to place certain restrictions on their land through conservation easements because they want to fulfill a vision and goal for their land. This is no different from developers building housing tracts in pursuit of other goals. Either way, developed or kept as open space under a conservation easement, the land is devoted to that particular land use beyond the present generation—indeed for many generations to come.