

# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

## Working Down Wallis Run

Wallis Run is designated as a High Quality – Cold Water Fishery. The tributary to Loyalsock Creek ('Sock) flows through forests and farms, past houses, and along roads. The waterway is entirely in Lycoming County and enters the 'Sock just north of the Route 973 Bridge.

A section of Wallis Run goes through the Loyalsock State Forest. In 2009, NPC, the Bureau of Forestry (BOF) and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) worked together to construct a mudsill to create more habitat and to help stabilize the stream bank. The project worked well. During a follow-up site visit discussions began about working on another section of the stream.

The new section was a little farther downstream, directly across from the parking area for the trail to Jacoby Falls. You may remember that NPC worked with the Bureau of Forestry back in 2001 on an acquisition to secure some additional land so the entire trail to Jacoby Falls is now on public land.

When Anadarko offered to donate funds toward a stream project on public land, NPC contacted PFBC and BOF to discuss the next section of Wallis Run. Everyone agreed the site was ready to go. Designs were done, logs were cut, stone was ordered, and equipment scheduled. Anadarko's staff signed up to pound rebar. Things were set for construction to begin on September 12, 2011.

Then, it started to rain on September 6, 2011. Hurricane Lee was moving through the area and a lot of rain hit the Loyalsock Creek watershed. Wallis Run was out of its banks and running high and fast. Wallis Run Road was partially washed away and the Route 973 Bridge collapsed. The stone order was cancelled and the equipment unscheduled. The project was put on hold.

PFBC staff visited Wallis Run later in 2011. The 2009 project site held up well. The site had changed.

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## Tree Tubes Find a New Life

Back in the Spring Penn College's Forestry students helped remove tree tubes. The tubes were reused by landowners in Bradford, Montour, and Centre Counties. Above is a photo of the tree tubes in their new home.

This summer, interns with Lycoming County Conservation District and Lycoming County Planning spent a morning removing tree tubes that will be reused by Lycoming County landowners. If you

can use some tree tubes, please contact the office. We have more to remove and would like to find them good homes.

## Easement Inspection Highlights – 2012

*2012 has been very busy for Easement Inspections – far too many to include them all – but here is a little peek into where we've been and what we've seen.*

**April 17, 2012** – The effects of last September's floods are very evident at the Power Dam and Zaner conservation easements along Fishing Creek in Columbia County. Large gravel bars and exposed drifts of sand where once there had been streamside trees. Glacial deposits of sand and cobble make up

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*Conserving working farms and forests*

## Working Down Wallis Run

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New designs were drawn up and the materials list revised. Construction was scheduled for the week of July 30, 2012.

Anadarko had nearly 50 employees volunteer that week as well as volunteers from the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, Lycoming College, Sullivan County Conservation District, and the Lycoming County Conservation District. These volunteers along with staff from PFBC and the Loyalsock State Forest constructed nearly 200 feet of mudsill along with a multi-log vane deflector.

Things went well during construction. There was only one equipment problem. The gas powered driver stopped working on the first day, but there were plenty of sledgehammers to continue working.

In late September Dr. Mel Zimmerman took some of his lab students out to the site. The class broke into four groups. Three groups electroshocked the stream. Because of the stream's width and the gravel bars, the teams worked to cover as much as possible. The fourth group took kick samples, water samples, and measured water temperature, conductivity, and pH at both the 2012 site and the 2009 work site.

NPC proposed to PFBC and BOF continuing work along Wallis Run with Anadarko's commitment to another project in 2013. Everyone agreed the stream is responding well to the 2009 work and can already see positive changes from the 2012 work. Design work for the 2013 site will begin in late winter with construction taking place sometime in the late summer.

Depending on the spring weather, NPC may host a site visit for the 2012 project site. Keep an eye out in the newsletter and your in-box for more details.



*Using a sledge hammer and a driving head, two Anadarko employees start driving at 4-foot piece of rebar.*

## Inspection Highlights

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the valley bottom and are easily moved by high water. Events like this have occurred since the last glaciers melted 10,000 - 20,000 years ago – and will continue as long as rain falls and streams rise despite efforts to “keep the stream where it belongs.” Unfortunately, many people don’t seem to understand that streams move over time and floods are an unavoidable natural occurrence just like sunrises and sunsets.

**September 6, 2012** – A woodchuck was busily cropping grass in a mowed area of the Bednar easement. Farmers have an understandable dislike of woodchucks – they eat crops, livestock may break their legs by stepping into woodchuck burrows and, if a wheel goes into one of those burrows, expensive equipment may be damaged. But ... woodchuck burrows provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife, from rabbits and opossums to foxes and cave crickets.



**September 21, 2012** – Inspected a conservation easement property that is entirely forested. Found that most of the largest and best trees had been marked for cutting – apparently an example of “cut the best and leave the rest”, where small slow-growing, diseased, defective or deformed trees would be left to occupy the site. Forests treated like this degrade over time as faster growing trees are repeatedly removed – the forest’s genetic stock is made poorer as is its commercial value. Such treatment has been likened to a dairy farmer repeatedly selling his best yielding milk cows and saving the poorer producers for breeding stock.

NPC’s conservation easements require a forest management plan using best management practices, written by a professional forester, before any commercial timber harvest. NPC’s goal of protecting working forests includes insuring that those forests are managed on a sustainable basis so that their ecological functions and economic value are not degraded over time. We have contacted the landowner to reinforce the conservation easement’s requirements regarding timber sales and will not permit the current undertaking to go forward. This situation is clear evidence of the importance of NPC’s monitoring visits.

# MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY • July 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012

## 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 them YOUR support.

Bald Eagle Township  
 Clinton Cnty. Economic Partnership  
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 Mericle Commercial Real Estate  
 PMF Industries Inc.  
 Wayne Twp. Landfill CCSWA  
 Wheeland Lumber Co. Inc.  
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 Mount Prospect Rifle Club  
 Annie Sanders  
 Fred C. Stiner, Jr.

### WHITE PINE (\$25-\$34)

Bear Hollow Rod & Gun Club  
 Michael & Mary Ditchfield

### WHITE PINE (Continued)

True Fisher  
 Oren Helbok & Sara Baker  
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 William Logue  
 Morris Arboretum  
 Denny & Linda Murray  
 Ryan Rudisill  
 Becky Sanguedolce  
 Steve Stroman  
 Bob Wallace  
 Wellsboro Area Chamber  
 of Commerce

### MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorial for John Way  
*by Ken & Mozelle Snyder*  
 Memorial for  
 J. Robert "Bob" Bower  
*by KeyImpact Sales & Systems*  
*by Annie Sanders*

### GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Allan & Betsy Quant  
 Daniel G. Reinhold

### HONORARIUMS

Dave & Barb Shollenberger  
*by Richard & Grace Carey*  
*by Betty DiParlo*

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





## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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## NPC & Warrior Run Pathways Kayak Montgomery to Watsonstown



*The group used the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission access at Montgomery to get on the River. As always, Canoe Susquehanna got all 40+ paddlers on the River without anyone going in the River!*



*Just past the old ordinance dam, the group stopped for a break. In addition to snacks and water, there was an overview on the River's mussels population and an opportunity to cool off by floating down a riffle.*



*Charlie Schwarz, NPC's Land Protection Specialist, was joined by his granddaughter Karyn Hosler on the trip. Being a dutiful granddaughter Karyn even caught Whirligig beetles during the break so Charlie could photograph them.*



*While it looked like it was going to start raining at any minute, the rain held off. The overcast skies worked to our advantage, keeping temperatures down. Here the group is approaching the Route 405 bridge near Dewart.*

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