

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Wetlands Purchased to Expand State Game Lands 313

Back in 1997 NPC's members supported the acquisition of just over 72 acres of wetlands adjacent to State Game Lands 313. We referred to the project at the Pensyl Project.

Now, almost 20 years later, we're back at State Game Lands 313. A conservation minded landowner reached out to NPC about 27 acres he owned on the northern end of State Game Lands 313. One parcel he'd owned for some time, while the other two parcels he had just recently acquired from an estate. He was interested in the parcels becoming part of the State Game Lands and asked for NPC's help in making that happen.

After meeting with the landowner and Game Commission personnel at the site, we began the process of documenting the properties' conservation values. The wetland complex is the headwaters to Marsh Creek which is a tributary to Pine Creek. Marsh Creek enters Pine Creek near the village of Ansonia.

The wetland complex known locally as The Muck, or Morris's Marsh, is known to be an American Bittern nesting site (1 of only 2 in the state) and to have Marsh



Muck

Wrens (species of concern). There are also two plants of significance that have been found in the wetlands.

This section of the Muck is paralleled by railroad tracks of the Tioga Central Railroad. If

you've ever gone on one of their scenic train rides you've seen the Muck, and maybe some of the birds using the complex.

Another use of the complex was farming. The wetlands were once trenched and used for celery production. The crop was harvested from the field, cleaned up and loaded directly on the railcars. While the



Conserving working farms and forests

loaded directly on the railcars. While the

Continued on page 2

THEN...



Here's an historic photo showing the celery production. See page 2 for more explanation. You can see the rows of celery to the right of the canal.

NOW...



Charlie was able to match up the slope of the hillside and take a photo of the same spot to demonstrate how much the site has change in the last 100+/- years.

Wetlands...

Continued from front page

Tioga Central only has 1 set of tracks now, there were 2 sets before.

Thanks to the help and support of our donors, we were able to take title to the property in late April. Funds from the Buck Land Acquisition Fund were used to pay for the appraisal and document preparation, while members and other donors helped cover the costs of staff time and mileage. The Tiadaghton Audubon donated toward the title search and the Charles Knox and Margaret Etner Foundation provided a grant to also help cover some of the title search costs.

We're now working to transfer the property to the Game Commission. They are planning to create a small parking area at this location to help facilitate bird watching.

New Faces at NPC

Gary Spies joined NPC in January after retiring from Susquehanna Health System's accounting department. Gary is a Lycoming College alum and serves on their alumni board. In a couple months he'll be juggling his NPC accounting duties with his ushering duties at Little League's world series.

We also welcomed Bridget Kane this spring. Bridget previously worked at the Potomac Conservancy and Susquehanna Greenway Partnership. Right now Bridget is managing the database. Soon she'll be working with an intern to coordinate the 2016 "Pulse of the Heartland Report" for the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies, a project Renee' has managed in the past.

Stream Restoration Projects Being Planned

As my fingers thaw out from my walk to the office from the lot I park in, it's hard to believe that the 2016 construction season will be the seventh year NPC has worked with PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA DEP, and County Conservation Districts throughout the region to improve water quality.

Conservation Easement Visits Underway

Charlie started his 2016 conservation easement visits in late March. His first visit was the Edwards Homestead Conservation Easement. Here is a panorama including what remains of the old apple orchard.



He visited Welsh Settlement in mid-April. The landowner practices no-till farming and last year's cover crops had already greened up.



We had a lot of rain in early May. It may have put a damper on some of your outdoor plans, but it helped the purple trillium and other wildflowers.



DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • February 1, 2016 to April 30, 2016

<p>MEMBERSHIPS BOBCAT (\$1000-\$4,999) Wayne H. & Carol Scott Sr.</p> <p>BLACK BEAR (\$500-\$999) Alpine Club of Williamsport Charles & Jane Darrow Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association Lycoming County Conservation District Gilbert L. Maton Stephen & Dorothy Schopfer</p> <p>WHITE-TAILED DEER (\$250-\$499) Gary & Susan Harris William B. Heffner III Russ Kimura & Denise Hamby Daniel & Barbara Lamade Steve & Deb Martin James C. and Annabelle T. Rogers, Jr. Richard & Susan Sprout Dan & Linda Wolfe Woodlands Bank</p> <p>BLACK CHERRY (\$100-\$249) Bald Eagle Township Beiter's Inc. Dale & Mary Bower Len & Jean Collins Frank R. Comfort</p>	<p>BLACK CHERRY (Continued) Molly Costello Daly & Bob Daly Richard Fry Henry F. Hartmann Jr. William & Kelly Hastings Donovan Inch Stephen E. Jaquith Rudy & Carol Kafer Josephine Lewis Terry & Dorian Myers Pine Creek Preservation Association Phyllis Wise Reynolds Jack & Joann Rishel Lance E. Robson Linda Schramm Roy A. Siefert Michael & Laura J. Steele Henry & Ann Street Albert & Judith Styrcula Chalmer Van Horn Robert G. & Rose Ann Wallace Wayne Twp. Landfill CCSWA</p> <p>RED OAK (\$50-\$99) Thomas & Miriam Boyd Brian Brooking Ron Butler Melissa Christ Dr. Robert & Loretta Coltrane Kevin R. Cunningham Thomas Duck Dave & Lisa Engle</p>	<p>RED OAK (Continued) Daniel Glunk & Margrit Shoemaker Ed Lawrence & Catherine McLaughlin Kenneth & Ann Lundy Edward & Judith Lyon Rick & Sara Mirabito Deborah Reeder Sam Shaheen Roger & Nancy Shipley D. Richard & Shirley Wenner Dr. Douglas Wion Michael & Mary Wolf Dorothy Yannaccone</p> <p>SUGAR MAPLE (\$35-\$49) Mike & Donna Bastian Jo Ann Bowes Mr. Raymond Chernikovich Dr. Lester G. Kleckner Dennis Martz Mountain Graphics Mr. & Mrs. James R. Parsons</p> <p>WHITE PINE (\$25-\$34) Mrs. Anne Donnelly Stacy Duffield Joseph & Ginny English Robert & Margaret Hershey Robert Major Charlotte Mengel Sandy Rife</p>	<p>WHITE PINE (Continued) Ryan Rudisill Rev. & Mrs. Larry Waltz Michael & Cindy Weinhold</p> <p>MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS In memory of her parents, Harold and Beulah Yerk <i>by Linda Schramm</i></p> <p>GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS Carl & Marti Barlett Joseph & Ginny English Tiadaghton Audubon Society</p> <p>2016 SPRING FUNDRAISER Carl & Marti Barlett Thomas & Laurie Burkholder Gary & Susan Harris Phyllis Wise Reynolds Stephen & Dorothy Schopfer Dr. Mel & Gail Zimmerman</p> <p>2016 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Amber Axeman John M. & Rhonda D. Carpenter Joan C. Gingrich Dr. & Mrs. Ira G. Masemore Laurence F. Miller</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank You...to all those who continue to support the work of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy</i></p>
--	--	--	---

Annual Membership Meeting Held

NPC's Annual Membership Meeting was May 4, 2016 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Williamsport. It was a lovely evening celebrating this past year's accomplishments. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time and enjoyed hearing our land protection update from Charlie.

Charlie updated us on the 45.86 acre Mexico Road Easement located in Liberty Township, Montour Co. And the recent new acquisition of the Webster/Ross Property in The Muck, which is 27 acres (the majority wetlands) in Delmar Township, Tioga Co and is only one of two areas cited as nesting locations for American Bittern in PA.

There were some big winners of the silent auction items, who won some great items like an Acorn and Oak Garden Scepter, Kayak/Stand Up

Paddleboard excursion, and pottery among other great artisan crafts/prints.

We welcomed the new Directors and recognized those Directors completing their terms. Mary Jo Saxe, Johnathan Bastian, and Jon Nichols were elected to a first 3-year term, while Steve Schopfer and Allison Diehl were re-elected. Romey Fagnano, Andra DeHart-Robbins, and Andy Harris all completed their second consecutive three-year term and were recognized for their service.

A little more about Mary Jo, Jonathan, and Jon:

Mary Jo Saxe

Mary Jo is a professor in Pennsylvania College of Technology's dental hygiene program. In addition to her teaching duties, she also serves as co-chair of

Continued on page 4

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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

Return Service Requested

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

Annual Membership...

Continued from page 3

the Middle States Commission of Higher Education Committee and is chair of the Quality through Assessment Committee.

A Sullivan County native, Mary Jo and her husband live in Laporte with their two sons.

Jonathan Bastian

Jonathan grew up in Loyalsock Township spending time hunting and fishing with his family and friends. He currently is the Director of Sales and Marketing for his family's business, part of the third generation to work in the company his grandfather started over 55 years ago.

When he's not working, you'll find Jonathan still hunting and fishing with his family and friends.

Jon Nichols

Jon Nichols is a manager at Baker Tilly Vrichow Krause, LLP's Williamsport office specializing in audits.

He is the President-Elect of the Northcentral Chapter of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accounts.

Jon grew up in Williamsport. While attending Penn State he met his wife. They are now raising their daughter in the area.

Did you know NPC can accept credit card payments on line through PayPal? You don't need to have a PayPal account, just your credit card information. You can use this to register for events, to make donations, and to set-up a recurring monthly payment if you like to spread your gift out over the year.



Kayak or Stand Up Paddleboard

It's not too early to start planning your summer. July 16, 2016 will find NPC once again partnering with Canoe Susquehanna for a paddle trip on the West Branch Susquehanna. You'll get to see our area from a new perspective while watching for riverside wildlife, improving your paddling skills, learning about local history and enjoying the companionship of other friendly paddlers!

We'll be on Canoe Susquehanna's "West Branch Express" route. This route is 5 river miles from Watsontown to Milton with a stop at mile 3 for optional purchased food at a riverside restaurant (including ice cream). With the shorter distance from previous years, you might want to think about trying a stand up paddleboard.