

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy



CeS

Joshi

Conservation Easement Site Visits

By Charlie Schwarz

Easement visits almost always entail an opportunity to take photographs of something interesting, whether it's a building, relic, plant, insect, mammal or bird. But, although buildings, relics, plants and insects provide easy – usually – chances for a photograph, mammals and birds often don't cooperate.

Joshi 2018

In this small field on the Joshi property I see wild turkeys on almost every visit, but they always flee to



CeS

Lyons Farm

the woods at top speed. A photo has never been forthcoming.

Lyons Farm 2018

The barn on the Lyons Farm is the classic style of barn found on small farms in northcentral Pennsylvania, constructed when a farm of 60-100 acres could provide a family with a comfortable way of life.

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Sustainably conserving the rural landscapes and waters

Projects to Improve Local Water Underway

The County Conservation Districts in our region, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection have been on a Limestone Run, Turtle Creek, Wolf Run, and Indian Creek over the last several weeks. Log structures have been installed to stabilize stream banks, crossings built for livestock, and trees planted to provide shade over the stream.

More work will be happening in July, August, and September.



Roberta Metzger Update – This Montour County landowner worked with the partnership a couple years ago. Since then, they decided to fence their livestock out of the stream and allow additional stabilization work to happen.



Mexico Road

Mexico Road 2018

Chillisquaque Creek flows along and through the property on Mexico Road conserved by an easement held by NPC. A wooded buffer protects the stream's banks from erosion and runoff.



Oak Meadow

Oak Meadow 2018

Oak Meadow Farm is on the edge of an area that is rapidly becoming a suburban area, but thanks to a conservation easement it will always be undeveloped. The cropland still grows corn and hay and will always be available for farming.



Shedden

Shedden 2018

The Shedden property abuts Towanda Creek and a portion of the property is in the stream's floodplain. Much of the area in the floodplain has been planted with trees and shrubs as mitigation to disturbance from gas developments elsewhere in the county. That planting has increased the riparian buffer along Towanda Creek.



VanHorn

VanHorn 2018

Entirely wooded, the VanHorn conservation easement protects small tributaries of Muncy Creek and is habitat for a wide variety of birds and mammals. A long-term excessive population of one of those mammals, white-tailed deer, in northcentral Pennsylvania has degraded that habitat and paved the way for a groundcover of hay-scented fern that inhibits the growth of many other plants and is of little benefit to wildlife.

Water Safety Signs Along Pine Creek Unveiled

The new water safety signs along Pine Creek were unveiled in time for Memorial Day weekend. The signs were developed, fabricated, and installed using funds from the PA Water Trails Grant Program through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, donations from Larry Piefer's family, and a donation from Pine Creek Outfitters.

Last year, Mr. Piefer lost his life in a boating accident on Pine Creek. His friend, Charlie Enoch was boating with him that day and attended the unveiling. "The Piefer family is truly grateful that some good came out of the tragedy," Enoch said. Noting he and Piefer were friends since they were 18 and had boated Pine Creek many times over the years. "It was a strainer. We were into it, and the boat flipped before we knew it," he said.

Strainers are one of the obstacles highlighted on the sign. The signs also remind boaters that the water temperature and air temperature can be very different. Jim Hyland, the new District Forester on the Tioga State Forest, cautioned, "just because it's a warm spring day, or even hot out, doesn't mean the water is going to be warm. People need to pay attention to the water temperature, especially in the spring."

The signs also remind people to wear their personal flotation device, or life jacket. Chad Lauer, Waterways Conservation Officer with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission noted that was one of the rules and regulations in place to keep people safe. He encouraged people to "Learn the rules and regulations. Boating is more than just recreation. There can be dangers involved and people need to be prepared and responsible."

Jon Dillon with Pine Creek Outfitters was involved in the search and rescue efforts last year. He commented that people often stop by his business, "asking if this is the place that does kayak rides. I always tell them, 'it's not a ride. It's a sport.' You don't just sit there, you need to pay attention and be able to paddle."

The signs are at most of the access points along Pine Creek on both the Tioga State Forest and Tiadaghton State Forest.



A water safety sign is unveiled along Pine Creek. From left to right: Ben Stone (Park Manager, Leonard Harrison State Park), Tom Casillio (Assistant District Forester, Tiadaghton State Forest), Nick Lylo (Acting District Forester, Tiadaghton State Forest), Jim Hyland (District Forester, Tioga State Forest), the sign, Charlie Enoch (friend of Larry Piefer and representing Larry's family), Chad Lauer (Waterways Conservation Officer, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission), Jon Dillon (Pine Creek Outfitters), Roy Siefert (Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy), and Lori Copp (Potter-Tioga Visitor's Bureau)



Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) Organizes Clean Up Along North Branch Canal Trail

MARC, the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, Northumberland County Conservation District, Service 1st Federal Credit Union, and local residents removed 209 tires and roughly fifteen cubic yards of trash from the trail corridor and adjacent railroad and road edge, including the stretch of the Trail that runs through the Rishel Grove Conservation Easement.

Northumberland County Conservation District's Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program, funded by the PA Department of Environmental Protection assisted with the cleanup and secured funding to help cover the costs of the tire disposal.

Another donor to MARC covered much of the costs to dispose of the fifteen cubic yards of trash and all the trash bags it took to collect the debris.

Wayne Kashner, MARC's volunteer Trail Steward for the North Branch Canal Trail as well as an active member of the Roaring Creek watershed association, "was instrumental in organizing and executing the cleanup and has probably removed more tires and trash from Columbia and Montour Counties than just about anyone we know," said MARC in a news release.

Thanks to MARC and everyone who helped clean-up the Trail including the area through the Rishel Grove Conservation Easement.



Above and below: The North Branch Canal Trail clean up crew.



Corey Bower of the Northumberland County Conservation District tossing tires up the canal bank



Did you know NPC can accept credit card payments online 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.

Paddling Pine Creek Vicariously – or the Tioga County Dinner

You can learn more about paddling Pine Creek, rafting Pine Creek, and maybe even running an outdoor recreation business at NPC’s Tioga County Dinner on September 19, 2018. Jon Dillon, owner, operator, and raft guide at Pine Creek Outfitters will be the speaker for the evening.

Jon helped with the Pine Creek Water Safety Sign Project. While working on that project and talking to Jon NPC realized it would be great to learn more about recreating on Pine Creek and how that is for business.

This year’s event will be held at The Deane Center with The Red Skillet Catering. Brad at The Red Skillet will be preparing his villager’s salad (cherry tomatoes, English cucumbers, red onion, feta cheese and tossed in a balsamic vinaigrette), oven roasted beef brisket, roasted vegetables (may include sweet potatoes, Brussel sprouts, carrots, parsnips), and for dessert cheesecake with strawberry sauce.

More information and a reservation form will be emailed out. If the mailing address NPC uses for you has a Tioga County zip code, you’ll get information mailed to you the old-fashioned way. If you don’t receive NPC’s emails, but want information on this dinner, please call the office, 570-323-6222.

Clinton County Solid Waste Authority’s Wayne Township Landfill Conservation Easement – or The Clinton County Dinner

Staff from the Clinton County Conservation District will be our guest speakers at the Clinton County Dinner. We’ll be returning to Stella A’s in downtown Lock Haven on September 25, 2018.

You may be wondering, “why are they asking the landfill people to speak?” Good question.

Back in the early to mid-1990s the Clinton County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) was expanding the landfill operation. This expansion was going to impact 2.3 acres of wetlands.

The CCSWA worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers to offset the impacts to those wetlands. One step was to place 49 acres of the landfill under conservation easement. This acreage included 13.8 acres of wetlands.

Some existing wetlands were moved to new locations, including Lake Wayne, the most significant wetland on the site. Lake Wayne was transferred to its new site by digging up the top twelve inches of its bottom substrate and moving it with sodmoving equipment to create an exact replica of the old site. Other wetlands were constructed and some were already in this area.

CCSWA staff provide tours of the wetland area as well as the recycling and landfill operations. They’re going to join us at our Clinton County Dinner and provide us with an overview of the landfill’s environmental efforts and the wildlife and waterfowl they see in the wetlands.

More information on the menu and making reservations will be emailed out. If you don’t receive NPC’s emails, but want information on this dinner, please call the office, 570-323-6222.

Name_____

Phone Number_____

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I/We will be attending the

Tioga County Dinner

of Attendees_____ @ \$30 Each = \$ _____

Clinton County Dinner

of Attendees_____ @ \$30 Each = \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Names of Attendees: _____

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Tombs Flats Today

Most of the time when NPC staff go somewhere the route back to the office is different than the route was from the office. This allows us see more of what is going on around the property we're looking at, but also allows us to see how past projects are working out. One place recently visited was the Tomb's Flats access (we still refer to it as the Yoder Acquisition) on the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

The access is about 7 or 8 miles north of Cammal and 1 or 2 miles south of Slate Run.

The former landowners had operated the property as a family campground. For a variety of reasons they decided they were done with campground management and maintenance. The family knew a lot of the property along the Creek was in the floodplain and they had dealt with a number of floods over the years. They reached out to NPC by contacting a founding board member.

NPC purchased the property and addressed a couple of issues related to the boundary. This required some legal action as well as a land swap with a neighboring landowner. Once this was wrapped up, the property was transferred to the Bureau of Forestry and became part of the Tiadaghton State Forest.

Over the years Forestry has added signage, built comfort facilities, and added picnic tables and tent camping (by permit) sites.

It's a great location to access the Pine Creek Trail, spend some time fishing, have a picnic, or get on the stream for some tubing or kayaking. Thank you to the Yoder Family for reaching out back in 2005, the founding board member who has continued to help in any way he can, and all the members whose support made this project possible.



Annual Membership Meeting Held

NPC's Annual Membership Meeting was held at the Peter Herdic House on May 1, 2018.

Board members can serve 2 consecutive terms, and then must rotate off the Board.

Gary Harris was the only Board member completing a second consecutive term and rotating off the Board. Carl Barlett and Gail Zimmerman were the Board members completing their first 3-year term.

The Board Governance Committee recommended Carl and Gail be elected to a second three-year term and Bill Worobec be elected to a first term of three years.

Bill previously served on NPC's board. He also previously served as a Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. He's working toward retiring from a career as a financial planner.

DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • April 1 to June 30, 2018

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who continue to
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River Simulator

There have been lots of kids (young and young at heart) learning about streams and geomorphology (how streams change and move). In April, the river simulator was at Science on the 'Sock.

May is 'field trip' season for the school-age crowd and the simulator was in counties throughout the region. The Williamsport Municipal Water Authority's Waterdale Lodge hosted the Loyalsock Township's 6th graders. Montour County Conservation District and Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) used the simulator at their middle school environmental day. Sullivan County's 5th graders also were able to enjoy activities with the simulator during their environmental field day.

If you have included NPC in your will, please let us know so that that we may thank you during your lifetime.



Kids from Sullivan County's 5th grade class explore the river simulator