

# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy



Round Top

## Late Summer/Early Fall Conservation Easement Site Visits

by Charlie Schwarz

*Easement visits open a window into the past as well as the present; in the progression of time these visits are a snapshot of the property on but one day but also a view into the past, both recent and distant. For someone who is a student of land use and an interest in reading the forested landscape it's been a pleasure to visit these properties over the years.*

### Round Top

A forest of young sugar maple trees occupies a steep hillside on the Round Top property; steep enough that most people would never think that the hillside was once cleared farmland. But a look at the 1938 aerial photo on the Penn Pilot website (<http://www.pennpilot.psu.edu/>) reveals that this hillside had been cleared and used either as a pasture or hayfield.

### Viani

Speaking of woodland that was once a field, this woodland on the Viani property was once a field on a farm that had been cleared by an Irish immigrant

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## Keystone Fund Celebrated in Clinton County

### Event Recognizes 25 Years of Keystone Fund Partnerships in Clinton County

In 1993, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, in a nearly unanimous vote, and the general public, in an overwhelming referendum vote, established the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Act 50 of 1993). The Keystone Fund is a dedicated and permanent funding source for making investments in recreation, parks, conservation, libraries, historical preservation, and education.

It's supported with a 15% share of the state's share of the realty transfer tax. There are four state agencies that receive monies from Keystone Fund to be used in the agencies' grant programs:

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC), Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the State System of Higher Education.

NPC has received several grants from DCNR over the years that were funded, in part, through the Keystone

Fund. The New Garden, or Kelley Project, in West Keating Township, Clinton County was one project that would not have been able to move forward

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## Stream Projects Slowed by Summer Rain

Given how much rain has fallen in the region this summer, we really lucked out. Only one project has had to be postponed due to weather. The site along Limestone Run had standing water in the fields and the creek was well out of its banks. It wasn't going to be possible to see the normal stream banks and get equipment anywhere near the stream.

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*Sustainably conserving the rural landscapes and waters*

## Late Summer...

Continued from front page



CeS

Viani

who settled on the property in 1854. The farm was reportedly a goat farm before it was abandoned in the 1930s and later became a country get-away for the couple that conserved it with a conservation easement.



Rishel Grove

### Rishel Grove

The Rishel-Grove property is maintained by a conservation easement held by NPC. It is also bisected by the North Branch Canal, a segment of the Pennsylvania Canal which operated from about 1830 until it was abandoned in 1891. Now the Montour Area Recreation Commission has created the North Branch Canal Trail on the old canal's towpath, its users pass through the conserved property for almost a mile.

## 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.



John F. Logue Wetlands

### John F. Logue Wetlands

In 1994 this wetland on the John F. Logue conservation easement was a beaver pond. Whether trappers eliminated the beavers in this colony or the beavers abandoned the area we will probably never know. Beavers abandon their ponds when they've "eaten themselves out of house and home" by cutting all the suitable trees close to the pond, they move on to colonize another area. Even though these properties are conserved in perpetuity change is constant.



CeS

Irion

### Irion

Much more recently the emerald ash borer arrived from Asia. This insect is rapidly removing all species of ash from Pennsylvania's forests. On the Irion easement, as on many others, the dead and dying white ash is being salvaged. The forests will be changed for the rest of our lifetimes and probably much longer by the loss of the ash; how many other species that are intimately intertwined with ash, from wild turkeys to fungi and bacteria, will be impacted may never be known.

# DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS July 1 to September 30, 2018

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In memory of Kurt  
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Forrest & Megan Lehman



LHU President Robert Pignatello speaking at the Keystone Fund celebration.

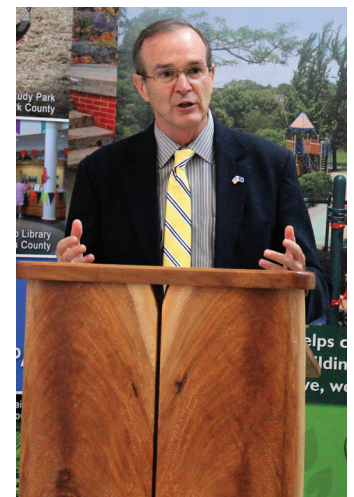
## Keystone Fund...

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without a grant coming in part from the Keystone Fund. To celebrate 25 years of the Keystone Fund support recreation, conservation, libraries, local museums, and higher education an event was held at Lock Haven University in September.

Robert Pignatello, President of Lock Haven University shown above, took the time to thank the Fund and give an overview of the ways the Fund has helped to eliminate a backlog of large maintenance projects at the University since it first began receiving funds back in 1994. Since then, the University has received \$4 million dollars in funding from the Keystone Fund.

Also speaking at the celebration about the Fund's impact was a founding sponsor of the 1993 legislation, State Representative Mike Hanna. Since Representative Hanna and his colleagues passed the legislation the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has awarded \$1,898,200 in Keystone Funds to Clinton County projects; Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) has awarded \$134,618 in Keystone Funds to Clinton County's museums; Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has awarded \$140,275 in Keystone Funds to Clinton County's libraries.



State Representative Mike Hanna, founding sponsor of the 1993 legislation that created the Keystone Fund.

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

## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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*Elvin Martin Log Vein*

## Stream Projects... *Continued from front page*

Other projects managed to get done even with the odd rounds of rain this summer. One site in Union County had a couple days of work, a break, and then a couple days to get the project wrapped up. The landowners understand that if a site is too wet, we can do more harm than good.

A few small things will happen in October, and then the planning for 2019 begins.

## Paddling Pine Creek Vicariously – or the Tioga County Dinner

Thank you to Jon Dillon, owner, operator, and raft guide at Pine Creek Outfitters for speaking at our Tioga County Dinner! Everyone enjoyed learning a little more about what's it like to work with visitors who want to enjoy and experience Pine Creek and the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

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

Thank you to Jay Alexander of the Clinton County Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) for providing an overview of the operations at the Wayne Township Landfill, and plans that are being made for the future of the facility. It was interesting to hear more about a site you see every time you drive along Route 220.