

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy  
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Did you know NPC can accept credit card payments online through Stripe and Paypal?

You don't need to have a Stripe or 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.

Save the Dates!

**NPC'S TIOGA COUNTY DINNER**  
**September 3, 2019** at The Deane Center, Wellsboro.  
Guest Speaker, Tim Morey, Environmental Educator for PA State Parks. Socializing at 6pm, dinner and program to follow.

**NPC'S CLINTON COUNTY DINNER**  
**September 10, 2019** at Stella A's Restaurant, Lock Haven. Guest Speaker, Katherine DiSilva, Clinton County Planning Director. Socializing at 6pm, dinner and program to follow.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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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Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

A Day at the Lake

Do you remember the first time you ever caught a fish? That joyful feeling when you realized your patience had paid off, the excitement of reeling in the line, followed by the sense of wonder as you examined all the exotic, aquatic features



Donna Colley, shown here with her new buddy and his first fish.

of your prize. It is a special moment that can inspire a connection to the natural world for years to come. NPC recently collaborated with the family of the late Dave Colley and the PA Fish & Boat Commission, to create an opportunity just like that for the kids in the after-school program at Firetree Place. Dave Colley was an avid fisherman and long-time employee of St. Croix Rod who had also spent time as a fly-fishing guide and instructor throughout northcentral Pennsylvania.

Continued on page 2

Introducing the Avis Canoe Launch!

Sometimes you have to buy a property people think is already public and actually make it public. Thanks to support from our members and extra help from George and Shirley Durrwachter that just happened. For years, people have used a property on the Avis side of the Route 150 bridge over Pine Creek to get on and off the Creek in kayaks, canoes, and tubes. They've fished here, swam here, and even sat in a chair while the Creek flowed over their feet and legs. Everyone seems to think the Bureau of Forestry owns the property.

They don't.

Well, not yet.

NPC bought the property Friday, June 28th and will be conveying it to the Bureau of Forestry in the next year, and then it WILL be a public property, owned by the Bureau of Forestry and managed as part of the Tiadaghton State Forest.

The property was owned by an individual who had development

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Sustainably conserving the rural landscapes and waters



It was a fun-filled day at the lake for the kids and volunteers.



A Day... Continued from front page

Organized in memory of Dave, **A Day at the Lake** featured a week of in-class activities at Firetree Place and culminated with a fishing excursion for the kids to Rose Valley Lake on June 8th. This inaugural event was made possible by support from a variety of local businesses and individual contributions; and the many friends and family of Dave Colley who volunteered their time, energy and enthusiasm!

Introducing... Continued from front page

plans for the property. However, when those plans fell through the owner looked to selling the property. When a local resident learned of the potential sale, he became concerned that the public might lose access to the Creek during the sale. This prompted him to reach out to the Tiadaghton State Forest District Forester. The Bureau of Forestry started working with the landowner to buy the property. While the landowner was agreeable to selling the property to the state, he couldn't wait as long as the Bureau of Forestry would need for their acquisition process. As a state agency, when the Bureau buys a property there are a variety of other Departments that need to review documents and approve the transaction. The Bureau of Forestry asked NPC to buy the property and then work through the Bureau's process to sell the property to the Bureau.

George and Shirley Durrwachter donated the funds for the purchase price of the property. George grew up on Pine Creek. Fishing, swimming, and floating. He and



Already a popular access point for the community, the Avis Canoe Launch will now remain open to the public forever!

Shirley recognize the recreational value the Creek provides for residents and visitors alike and wanted to help keep access in place for people to use and enjoy the Creek. NPC's members and donors provided other resources needed to get the project started. A sales agreement was drafted; the DEP files for Pine Creek Township, Clinton County were reviewed; and the title search started. That title search found a 1947 deed that referenced a "frame gasoline station." Those 3 words carry a lot of weight with them. So, NPC set out to do the research, consulting with a geologist and the Clinton County Historical Society - even a group of "local guys" who meet for coffee each week were asked if they remembered anything about the property back in the day. A Phase I environmental review, soil sampling, and ground penetrating radar were all completed as well, confirming that the soil is indeed safe and no underground tanks remain. With those steps complete, a closing was scheduled and the documents were signed without a hitch. Now the process of selling the property to the Bureau of Forestry can begin. Documents are being drafted and reviewed. Reports are being shared and updated. Keep an eye out in future newsletters for more information about the project and updates on when it will become part of the Tiadaghton State Forest.

Stay Up-To-Date with NPC

You don't have to wait for the quarterly newsletter to learn about NPC happenings. Subscribe to our e-mail list to help keep you up on current events, projects, and conservation topics. Email [info@NPCweb.org](mailto:info@NPCweb.org) to subscribe or sign-up online at [www.NPCweb.org](http://www.NPCweb.org).

Leave a Legacy

Anyone can leave a lasting legacy by naming NPC as a beneficiary in their will or living trust, life insurance, or retirement accounts. It is easy to do and it costs nothing during your lifetime. If you decide to do this, please let us know so we may thank you for this significant gift.

DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • April 1 to June 30, 2019

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- BOBCAT (\$1000)**  
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CONTRIBUTIONS

- Reneé Carey  
Adrienne Craig
- 2019 RAISE THE REGION**  
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Robert & Joan Bauder  
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MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- In memory of Russ Kimura  
Adrienne Craig  
Victor & Mary Engel  
Linda Schramm
- 2019 DAY AT THE LAKE FOR DAVE COLLEY**  
Steven & Rosemarie Allison  
Nancy Colley  
Franco's Inc.  
H. Michael & Winona Kremser  
Natural Waterscapes, LLC  
Bill & Pam Worobec  
Jason Bartges's family & friends in his memory

2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- Lois Block  
Richard & Grace Carey  
Alison Diehl  
Rebecca Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick & Lambert Ford  
Mr. & Mrs. Law Groner  
Candace S. Nevel & Ellice Tomlinson

2019 CELEBRITY WAITER NIGHT

- Anne Rice & Rick Mason



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





NPC Executive Director, Renee Carey, teaches Jersey Shore Elementary students about erosion.

## The Traveling Stream Table

It sure has been a busy summer for the Stream Table! The Stream Table helps us teach children about erosion. It's been to the Waterdale Environmental Education Center on multiple occasions for different student group outings. In June, it traveled out Warrensville Road to Rider Park's Open House and will make the trip to Worlds End State Park for their annual open house on July 27th. In between all that, it's traveled across the region with the local County Conservation Districts, making appearances at anywhere from Cub Scout troop meetings to environmental youth camps.

It will soon be taking up residence at Lycoming College, and getting a well-deserved bath!

You can help get the Stream Table out into the communities even more by volunteering to learn how to "staff" the Table at an event. If you are interested in getting involved with this project, please contact the NPC office (570-323-6222 or [rcarey@npcweb.org](mailto:rcarey@npcweb.org)).

Earlier this year, we lost Russ Kimura, a former board member, longtime supporter, and dear friend of NPC. We would like to offer a very special, heart-felt thank you again to all those who contributed to NPC in his memory.



## Meet Holly, New Staff at NPC

Holly Byers is NPC's new Office & Communications Coordinator. Originally, from Hughesville, Holly recently relocated back to the area after living in rural Maine for 4 years. During her time in Maine, she worked as the Outreach Director for Downeast Coastal Conservancy. She has her B.A. in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing. When not out hiking or paddling with her husband and two children, you can find Holly on the soccer field officiating.



Holly hits the trails with her daughter.

## Lessons Learned in Stream Restoration

NPC Intern, Nate Stephens, talks about his experience working for NPC this summer.

Interning with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy has given me the opportunity to gain valuable work experience within the environmental field. This experience has allowed me to develop my young career as I take the next step into the professional world. Currently, a senior at Bloomsburg University, majoring in Environmental, Geographical, Geological Sciences (or EGGs for short), I have been able to expand upon my education by applying it in the field, observing the roles of different agencies and departments, and networking with numerous professionals. Most of the work I have completed throughout the summer has been with the partnership on stream restoration projects and electrofishing.

From late May to the beginning of July, I worked with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Union County Conservation District, and Department of Environmental Protection employees on stream restoration projects. During this time, we were able to complete the John Nolt property, the Griffith property, and the Sabo property.

Each project was unique for work it needed; however, the goal always remained the same. Protect the toe of the slope from erosion and allow the stream easy access to flood plain. By installing the log structures, I got a first-hand experience on how you accomplish the first of these two goals. Certain structures kick water back into the main channel of the stream, while others protect the bank from the direct flow. Some of the structures, like a modified muddsill, serve a dual purpose. They absorb the energy from the current around bends, protecting the bank, as well as provide overhead cover, creating fish habitat. To accomplish the second goal, grading the stream bank is required. This means having an excavator move soil on the bank in a manner where water can go out instead of up during high flows. By giving water immediate



access to flood plain, you slow down the velocity, which will limit the amount of erosion that can occur. After we have finished grading a section of stream bank, we will plant a riparian buffer. The roots from the riparian buffer stabilize the soil, which adds another preventative measure to limit erosion. Because of this experience, I learned that both the log structures and grading are equally important. To fully mitigate an impaired stream both aspects of the stream restoration process need to occur.

As I mentioned before, certain log structures create fish habitat. One of the opportunities that NPC offered was electrofishing previously completed projects. I worked with Susquehanna University collecting data on species population and biodiversity. We electro fished two previous projects where we found multiple brown trout. This was cool to experience because these were impaired streams where trout were not found prior to the completion of these projects. Trout are an indicator species for high water quality. To have wild trout, you must have cold sediment free water, lot of dissolved oxygen, and ample overhead cover. The work the NPC and their partnership have done show that stream restoration projects are worth the time and money.

I am thankful for the opportunities and experiences so far this summer and look forward to the remainder of my internship with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy. Working with the different organizations throughout the summer has made me realize I would like to pursue a career with a county conservation district. This internship has allowed me to gain valuable work experience and network with professionals in that field.



Nate and students from Susquehanna University's FRI, electrofishing in the Turtle Creek watershed.



# Easement Site Visits Update

NPC Land Protection Specialist, Charlie Schwarz, has traveled through valleys and woodlands and across wetlands and croplands this summer during his annual easement site visits. Here’s a brief update of where he’s been and what he’s seen so far:

**PPL Wetlands** –The PPL Wetlands are home to insects and amphibians, turtles and birds and mammals – including a beaver colony. Yes, there are beavers living in this lodge right next to the large industrial complex of a coal-fired electrical generating station.



PPL Wetlands

**Visscher** – A white-tailed deer is seen here exploring the Visscher easement. A variety of invasive exotic vegetation, including burning bush, Oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose, and autumn olive, can be found on the property. Those species are invasive, in part, because white-tailed deer usually will not eat them while the deer will eat most native species. The dense growth of invasive vegetation, while it doesn’t feed deer, is excellent escape cover for the herbivores.



Visscher

**Oak Meadow Farm** – This conservation easement occupies a small valley and contains 87 acres of woodland and cropland. Each year, the cropland yields a harvest of hay, the stream and woodland provide wildlife habitat, and livestock still live on the land.



Oak Meadow Farm

**Overlook** – The Overlook property contains a vista along PA Route 239 that affords an expansive view of the valley of Fishing Creek in Columbia County. Other than the vista, the property is entirely wooded and borders Fishing Creek to which it provides public access. Some of you may recall that what was reportedly a tornado struck near Benton, PA this spring. Well, that wind struck the Overlook conservation easement not long before Charlie made the annual monitoring visit. High winds, not fire was the major agent of change in eastern forests before European settlement – and here on the slopes of the Overlook property was evidence of change in its woodland.



Overlook

# Easement Site...

**Zaner** – Also in Columbia County and providing public access to Fishing Creek is the Zaner conservation easement. It’s a rare occurrence not to see someone trying their luck (or skill) fishing in this famous trout stream.



Zaner

**Fossil Farm** – The Fossil Farm easement consists of fields, a homestead, and a stream containing a beaver colony, wetlands and woodland. The woodland contains many fine specimens of sugar maple, hickory and white ash. Unfortunately, the white ash has been attacked by the emerald ash borer, an insect accidentally introduced from Asia that is killing well over 90% of the ash in northcentral PA. To recover whatever value remains in the dead and dying ash the landowner retained a consulting forester to write a forest management plan, mark the trees to be removed and administer the resulting timber sale. NPC reviewed the management plan and has approved the plans to sale the trees while they are still usable.



Fossil Farm

# Annual Membership Meeting Wrap-Up

Thank you to everyone who attended NPC’s 2019 Annual Membership Meeting on May 7th at the Peter Herdic House!

At the meeting, we recognized former Board President, Steve Schopfer, and Director, Mary Jo Saxe, for their years of service as they exited off the Board. Director Tiffani Kase has since been elected to serve as the new Board President. Directors, Jonathan Bastian, Alison Diehl, and Jonathan Nichols, were elected to each serve a second 3-year term. We also welcomed two new Directors to the Board, Beth Schluter and Aaron Lewis. Beth and Aaron both bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the table, and we are grateful to have them on board! You can learn more about Beth and Aaron by visiting [www.npcweb.org/about-npc/board-of-directors](http://www.npcweb.org/about-npc/board-of-directors).

# Stream Work in Turtle Creek Featured in Story Map

Pennsylvania DEP developed a story map about the stream work done in the Turtle Creek Watershed (the stream enters the West Branch Susquehanna River south of Lewisburg). NPC and our partners began working to stabilize streambanks in the watershed in 2013. Since then, the group has worked with over 10 landowners in the watershed doing everything from log and rock structures, to stabilized stream crossings, to fencing, and vegetative stabilization.

A story map is an online, interactive presentation that uses text, videos, maps, and photos to help explain something.

To promote the release of the story map *The Daily Item* visited a project in the Turtle Creek watershed, wrote a story, and developed a short video. In the above photo Cameron Englehart with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is being interviewed by Robert Ingles.

The next time you’re online, check out the story map at: <https://www.depgis.state.pa.us/TurtleCreek/index.html>. The Daily Item’s video can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUP0l8Q9z7o#action=share>.