

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

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**Highlights from Summer...** *Continued from previous page*

soils were poor, the growing season short and by 1920, the last people moved off the mountain; now all that remains of the farms are stone walls and old foundations.

The **Viani** property is the only property NPC has conserved in Susquehanna County. As with Robwood Mountain, this property was cleared as farmland in the 1800s and then abandoned as the economics of agriculture changed in the early 1900s. Now the Viani property is almost entirely wooded, the exception being an extensive wetland along the large stream that bisects the property.

Not all of the properties NPC conserves with easements are abandoned farmland, some are actively farmed. One of those is the **Welsh Settlement** property in Tioga County. Utilizing some of the most modern agricultural practices, the current landowner also makes use of the old 18th Century barns, the "cow barn" with its recent addition and the smaller "horse barn," which is now used for storage rather than to house draft horses as it did in days gone by.

Another currently farmed property conserved by an easement in Bradford County is the **Shedden property**. A hard rain was falling on the day of the visit, rain is better than heat when walking through open fields. On the Shedden property, those fields are growing corn and hay and some of the areas unsuitable for agriculture are growing wildlife habitat from milkweed and goldenrod to shrubs and small trees – increasing scarce habitats.

If you look back at the masthead of this newsletter, you will see a large picturesque tree. That tree was on the **Weaner** property when the landowner donated the land to NPC; the property was subsequently sold and conserved by an easement. The tree was reputed to be the oldest in Lycoming County and was adopted as NPC's logo. Sadly, the tree no longer stands, it was felled by a combination of time, gravity and weakened and decayed roots. Although the tree stands no more, the conservation easement is perpetual and will conserve the property far into the future.

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# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy



*The Stream Team works on a project site in Union County this past summer.*

## The Northcentral Stream Partnership Celebrates 10 Years!

It's been 10 years since the Northcentral Stream Partnership was formed. Driven by the motto, **"Everyone does a little, so no one has to do a lot,"** the Partnership was created to improve the water quality on agriculturally impaired streams in northcentral Pennsylvania.

Coordinated by NPC, and including state agencies (DEP & PFBC), county conservation districts, non-profit organizations, and willing landowners, the Partnership focused on 15 project sites across the region during that first construction season in 2009. Since then, the partnership has worked on over 160 project sites and impacted 25 miles of stream.

That's 10 years of working together to improve the water quality for our communities, 10 years of recovering aquatic habitat, and 10 years of supporting PA's working agricultural landscape. **For the partners, volunteers, and landowners that have seen or worked on a project site firsthand, you might also be thinking, "That's A LOT of rocks, logs, rebar, and sweat equity!"**

The partners use proven in-stream stabilization structures, such as log vanes and muddills, to remove

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*Sustainably conserving the rural landscapes and waters*

## Regional Dinners Entertain & Educate Guests

### Clinton County Planning Director Provides Updates on the Bald Eagle Valley Trail

Katie de Silva gave attendees of the Clinton County Dinner a "tour" of the Bald Eagle Valley Trail during NPC's Clinton County Dinner. Katie used photos and maps to explain which sections of the trail are completed, and the status of the sections "in progress." The September 10, 2019 event also included socializing and wonderful dinner conversations.

The eastern terminus in Clinton County is at the Tiadaghton Elm site owned by the Bureau of Forestry. NPC worked with the previous landowner of the site to facilitate the donation of the Tiadaghton

Elm property to the Bureau of Forestry.

It is wonderful to see how projects that NPC members made possible can grow to become even bigger community assets through the support of other organizations, like the Clinton County Government.

### Which State Park is It?

Tim Morey, a Natural Resource Specialist for DCNR's Bureau of State Parks, was the guest speaker at NPC's Tioga County Dinner on September 3, 2019. Tim began with an overview of why he feels environmental education is

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*Riders cruise the Bald Eagle Valley Trail. Photo Credit: Clinton County Government.*

**REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP**  
VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 4 • FALL 2019



The “Stream Team” formed as a partnership 10 years ago to help improve local water quality.

## Northcentral Stream...

*Continued from front page*

velocity and pressure from the stream banks. They also implement Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as walkways and fencing, to help reduce the impact livestock have on the streams by getting them out of the stream channel and back from the stream’s edge. The type of structure used depends on the stream conditions, and takes into consideration how the water will react under normal flows and high water events.

Some restoration benefits happen instantly, such as the way the water flow responds to the new structures. Others take time, as the vegetation grows creating a riparian buffer, soaking up excess nutrients and stabilizing the bank. Macro-invertebrates and fish return to the water, finding habitat and renewed food sources. Documenting the pre and post construction condition of the streams’ physical and biological conditions is a vital piece of the puzzle. Aforementioned, the change and return to health is a gradual process, which is why **NPC is extremely thankful to our members for their support of the Partnership throughout the decade.**

At the heart of the Northcentral Stream Partnership, are the dynamic people and organizations that have helped grow the programs impact. As the Partnership has evolved and maximized its efforts over the years, so too have the individuals involved. Interns became professionals. Landowners became stewards.



Researchers and students take samples post-construction at streambank stabilization sites.

Volunteers became advocates. **Now the Partnership has become a model for broader reaching plans to help improve water quality across the state and the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed.** As a member of NPC or a partnering organization/landowner, we hope you are as proud as we are to be a part of the solution to restore the health of Pennsylvania’s waterways. **Cheers to another 10 years!**

## Regional Dinners...

*Continued from front page*

so important for kids and why kids should spend time outside. Then Tim switched over to “game show” host. Tim works with all the state parks in Potter and Tioga Counties. Rather than just tell us about the Parks, he made it a game. Tim showed photos and gave a little history then had the dinner guests guess which state park he was talking about.

He left an impression. After the dinner, several attendees reached out to see what books or resources exist that give histories of the state parks.

## Transfer of the Avis Canoe Launch is in the Works

Paddlers, swimmers, and anglers enjoyed access to the newly acquired Avis Canoe Launch all summer long. The process to transfer this property to the Bureau of Forestry is underway, and should be completed within the next 6 months – ensuring that the Launch will remain open to the public for generations to come!



View of the Avis Canoe Launch from across the Creek, next to the Route 150 bridge.

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

## Highlights from Summer Easement Site Visits

*by Charlie Schwarz, NPC Land Protection Specialist*

Lots of folks enjoy summer – blue skies, swimming, picnics, vacations, no school, and fresh corn...but for those of us who work outdoors, summer also brings heat, humidity, sweat, ticks, mosquitos, and deer flies. I prefer walking the properties in spring and fall, however, all of NPC’s conservation easements must be visited annually and time flies, so out I went! Here are the highlights from this past summer –

**Robwood Mountain** in Bradford County is actually a plateau, relatively flat on top at an elevation of 2,300 feet. The property under easement on Robwood Mountain encompasses part of the plateau’s top but

also drops to about 1,300 feet in the lower reaches of what is locally called Dark Hollow. Atop the plateau, settlers cleared a number of farms, but the



A stone wall remains from an old settlement on the Robwood Mountain easement.

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