

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Bar Bottom Update and a Lesson on Title Searches

A Message from Reneé Carey, NPC Executive Director

Back in June when NPC attended an auction to purchase the Bar Bottom property, we thought we needed to close in 30 days. However, it took a little longer than that.

When NPC purchases a property, we have an extended title search done. For a “normal” residential purchase a title search goes back 60 years. However, since we are usually purchasing a property that will be owned by a state agency for conservation and public recreation, we go back at least 100 years, if not 150 years!

It can be quite a lengthy process at times, and the Bar Bottom acquisition proved to be no exception. However, we do this to ensure that we are “getting” all the rights and uses we think we are, and that we need.

So, just about 4 months after the thrill of winning the highest bid at auction, we’re proud to report that NPC officially took title to the property on October 6, 2020! Soon, we will begin working with the Bureau of Forestry (BOF), who will take over the

permanent ownership of the property and manage it as part of the Loyalsock State Forest. To learn more the Bar Bottom acquisition process, [visit www.npcweb.org/bar-bottom-and-a-lesson-on-title-searches](http://www.npcweb.org/bar-bottom-and-a-lesson-on-title-searches).

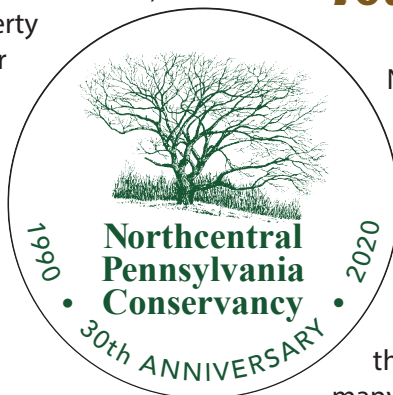
Your Gifts Matter

By this time, you’ve probably received NPC’s annual appeal letter in the mail.

We hope you were able to take the time to read over it and really soak up all the things YOU were able to help NPC accomplish during a year of such uncertainty. From the 112-acre Bar Bottom acquisition to the ongoing efforts to restore the water quality throughout our watersheds. While so

many things felt out of control this year, your choice to give has helped NPC weather this adversity and push forward towards 30+ years of conservation. THANK YOU!

There’s still time to choose to support this year’s annual appeal campaign. Changes in the Charitable Gifts deduction may provide even more incentive for you to give. See the CARES Act and your tax advisor for details and more information.



Loyalsock Creek views from the Bar Bottom property.



New members, the Carey Family, on a hike to Jacoby Falls. Thank you for supporting NPC and making moments like this possible!

Be Surprised!

by Susan Sprout, author of the Underfoot series on the NPC blog

I guess it is easy to overlook the plants and trees we routinely see on our travels here and there, on foot or by vehicle. Complicated living keeps our minds so busy that we either neglect or don't take the time to notice them because our focus is elsewhere.

I was surprised recently as I sat on the ground to satisfy the demanding "I want petted" doggie next door. There, next to the fence, were examples of some of the first plants to evolve from green algae to live on land about 410 million years ago. "Marchantia!" The name sailed out of my mouth. I hadn't seen or thought about it since college botany class. I had a wonderful trip to the past looking up, reading and relearning about these amazing plants that like living in damp shade - now residing next to the fence in the afternoon sun during the driest summer I can remember!

I am hoping to continue Underfoot during the fall and winter. So many plants...so little time. It's said that if a person can identify a plant in all the seasons of the year, he or she will know it forever, no matter where it is growing: the tiniest seedling, throughout its growth and flowering, after its seeds are released and its leafless skeletal remains are topped with snow. With that in mind, I will be looking for dried seed heads and pods, fall berries on vines clinging to trees, plants and trees with galls (mumps and bumps) growing on them from insect larva deposited inside as an egg which grows and distorts the shape of its foliage, plants that stay green all winter. It seems wherever I look, there is a plant to grab my attention, curiosity, and wonder. I will love sharing them with you - come along and be surprised with me!

Highlights from the Field

by Tamara Wagner, NPC Land Steward Specialist

As summer shifts to fall here in Northcentral Pennsylvania, I have been able to complete the lion's share of my conservation easement site visits. I have had no shortage of exploration on these incredible conserved lands!

A commonality between many easements that I have visited is the presence of old stone walls. These walls tell a story of past land uses involving farming and grazing, as well as the accompanying manual labor. Most of these old fields have reverted back to Penn's Woods through natural forest succession. (The term



THE MORGAN VALLEY EASEMENT stone wall is the largest I have encountered on any of NPC's easements so far this year.

forest succession refers to undisturbed fields becoming invaded by shrubs, then gradually saplings and young trees, and after many years returning into a mature forest.) However the remnants of these pieces of cultural history can still be found tucked away in the forest of trees.

Easier Access to Pine Creek at the Avis Canoe Launch

One of the goals of NPC is not only to conserve the lands and waters of our area, but also to ENHANCE some of those properties to fulfill the recreational needs of our communities. This summer – thanks to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Canoe Access Development Fund and Clinton County Tourism/ Recreation Grant, NPC's partnership with the Bureau of Forestry, and support from your membership – we saw that goal put into action through a series of access improvements at the Avis Canoe Launch!

Overgrown vegetation was cut back, stone was added to the parking area and pathway, and the gate was replaced with a bollard. Geocell was also installed, making the previously very slippery landing/access area to Pine Creek, safer and more accessible for everyone! New signage will be installed over the winter and a grand "reopening" is being planned for Spring 2021.

(Continued on page 3, bottom)

DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • July 1 to September 30, 2020

MEMBERSHIPS

BOBCAT (\$1000-\$4999)

Alpine Club of
Williamsport
Hardy Hansen

BLACK BEAR (\$500-\$999)

Ron & Sondra Beach
Jane Darrow
Charles D. Lamade
Marc & Diane Lewis
James & Cheryl Redmond
Annie Sanders
Michael Smith &
Adrienne McCallister-Smith
William & Kimberly
Van Campen

WHITE-TAILED DEER (\$250-\$499)

Sanders Mortuary
Keith & Jennifer Kuzio
Herman Logue
Pine Creek Headwaters
Protection Group
Charles & Diane
Plankenhorn
PMF Industries Inc.
Dave Rockey
George & Mary Ellen
Rodgers
Bill & Ann Roll
Wheeland Lumber Co. Inc.

BLACK CHERRY (\$100-\$249)

David Aldenderfer
& Mickaely Puchalski
Jay & Juli Alexander
Anonymous
James R. Binder

BLACK CHERRY (Continued)

JoAnn Bowes
Sally Butterfield
Ralph & Rosie Dotterer
Kevin Drewencki
Victor & Mary Engel
Rebecca Ferguson
Michael & Lisa Fink
Richard Fry
Gary Glick
James W. Green
Bonita E. Hannis
Thomas & Nancy Harmon
William & Kelly Hastings
Charles & Carol Hildebrand
John & Karen Humphrey
H. Michael & Winona
Kremser
John & Cathy Miller
Anne Rice & Rick Mason
John & Cynthia Schrader
Albert & Judith Styracula
Swift Forestry LLC
Jim & Lynn Tooe
Rick & Cathy Torsell
Robert G. & Rose Ann
Wallace
Joanne Wise

RED OAK (\$50-\$99)

Dennis & Linda Ault
Thomas & Miriam Boyd
Edward Cruttenden
Gloria & Charles "Skip"
Greevy
Kathie L. Hunter
Alan D. Lunger

RED OAK (Continued)

Lycoming County
Pomona Grange
Scott & Jessica Mathias
Melinda & John
McCarthy Jr.
Robert W. & Barbara
McCullough, III
Larry & Kathy McDonald
Jason & Michelle Metzger
Bill & Mary Jo Saxe
Carl W. Schlappi
Alvin L. Snowiss
Barbara Sonies

SUGAR MAPLE (\$35-\$49)

Tina McCafferty
Virginia Thompson

WHITE PINE (\$25-\$34)

Randy, Keri & Garrison
Carey
Samuel & Darlene
Godfrey
Jacob Jones
Denny & Linda Murray
Luke Rodgers
Sharon Sides

CONSERVATION EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP FUND

Louis & Wanda E. Irion

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

American Legion
Post 104
Anonymous

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS (Continued)

Rob Barbour
Stephen & Stephanie
Budman
Richard & Grace Carey
Roger Chilson
Michael Ditchfield
Eugene Brown Family
Rebecca Ferguson
George J. Gard
Randall & Maxine Mills
Candace S. Nevel & Ellice
Tomlinson
Virginia F. Nicholas
Susan Post
James & Cheryl Redmond
Stephen & Dorothy
Schopfer
Jerry & Joy Walls

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

*In memory of
Donald L. Brobst*

Elizabeth Brobst

*In memory of
Arlene Huff Yackel*

Richard & Grace Carey

*In memory of
Charlotte Mengel*

Dr. George & Shirley
Durrwachter

William & Sarmite Judson

David & Christy Lassiter

Linda Stein

*In memory of
Clement & Nancy Rizzo*

Anonymous

Easier Access to Pine Creek... (Continued from page 2)

It's very exciting to see this project come full circle – from a favorite, local watering hole at risk of being privatized to a community asset conserved and enhanced for generations to come!

This project was jumpstarted last summer, with a generous donation by George and Shirley Durrwachter to purchase the property. A huge THANK YOU, again, to these community conservation pioneers!

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
WILLIAMSPORT, PA
PERMIT NO. 33

Stream Season Wrap Up

As Todd's picture demonstrates, the 2020 instream construction season looked a little different than in the past. Sure, there were hardhats and ear protection, but this year there were also masks. The Conservation Districts, PA Fish and Boat and PA DEP worked to get the logs drilled and rebar in, but there weren't any volunteers helping out.

Changes were made to reduce the possible spread of COVID-19 and to try and keep everyone safe. However, the stream partnership worked together (like they always do) to figure out how to work with those changes and still get streambanks stabilized. By the end of the season, we were able to improve the local water quality on over 2 miles of stream across 8 different properties!

Given how many things didn't go as planned this year, everyone in the stream partnership is amazed at how much we got done. There were hiccups along the way. One project had 2 skid steers break down and a track come off the third. There was also the project that a boulder (the size of a Mini Cooper) was discovered while putting in a stabilized stream crossing. However,



The 2020 stream season may have looked a little different, but the team pressed on!

those are "normal" hiccups that happen in some form every year.

The list of interested landowners on agriculturally impaired streams continues to grow. We'll have a full schedule in 2021 (fingers crossed) and have plenty of planning and design work to keep everyone busy this fall and winter.