



## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

### There's a story to the new logo. A story that you helped create.

*The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy's new logo is a visual representation of its mission to conserving and enhancing the lands and waters of Northcentral Pennsylvania to support the environmental well-being and recreational needs of local communities.*

- ◆ **LAND** From forest to farmlands to the waters that wind through the land - **conserving** the region's natural resources remains at the heart of NPC's mission.
- ◆ **WATER** The cascading stream and rocks represent NPC's commitment to **enhancing** the health of our local waterways.
- ◆ **RECREATION** The diamond shape is symbolic of a trail blaze, further speaking to NPC's dedication to providing and enhancing **access to outdoor recreational opportunities**.
- ◆ **COMMUNITY** The bridge spanning the creek signifies the **connection** between our communities and the land & water.

## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

*Conserving and enhancing the lands and waters of Northcentral PA*



Spring 2021



Smith's Knob overlooking the Loyalsock Creek

### New Logo. Same Hardworking NPC!

#### Season of Change

Spring. A season of change, growth, and opportunity. It brings with it the hope that from a small seedling can grow the tallest hemlock in the forest. As its roots strengthen and its limbs stretch wide, its role in the forest evolves too. Now it can provide shade, stability, nourishment, habitat, and help others grow as well.

Much like the seedling, the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC) started as an idea and grew.

From that very first town hall meeting to NPC's first "official member" (a posthumous 'thank you', again, to Spencer Kraybill for paving the way!).

From creating and enhancing public access to places like the

beloved Pine Creek Rail Trail, to improving our local water quality through numerous streambank stabilization projects.

From growing a conservation easement program responsible for stewarding over 4,700 acres across Northcentral PA, to the most recent partnered acquisition adding 112-acres of publicly owned land to the Loyalsock State Forest with the 'Bar Bottom' project.. Over the past 31 years, NPC's legacy and conservation impact have continued to grow.

#### Why the Change

Members and supporters of NPC have helped do some amazing things over the years! And just as NPC's membership grew, so did NPC's programs and ability to conserve our

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New Logo continued

region’s natural resources for the well-being of our communities and generations to come.

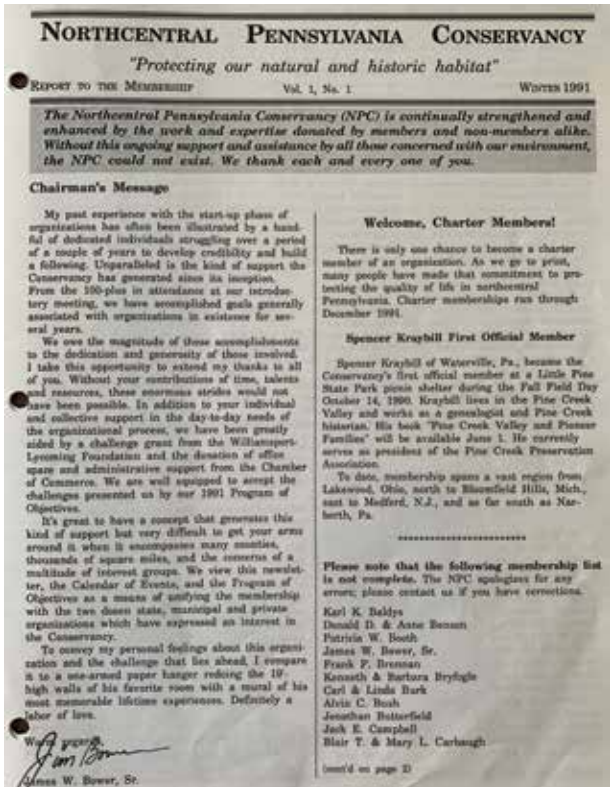
For the past several months, NPC’s board and staff have been working to create a new logo for the organization that is a more comprehensive visual representation of NPC’s mission and scope of projects.

The original logo of the singular tree has served NPC well, and we are grateful for the roots that it helped NPC establish. The new logo tells the story of everything NPC has grown to be.

NPC Today

From generational family farms, to working forests, and landscapes rich with history – NPC’s robust conservation easement program and partnered acquisitions help ensure that our natural resources are cared for and stewarded for many years to come.

As a founding member of the Northcentral Stream Partnership, NPC is helping to bring the region’s local water resources back to health while maintaining a working agricultural landscape. The Partnership’s success is currently being used as a model across the state as part of the



As a member, you are part of the NPC legacy. So whether this is your first issue of the NPC newsletter or you still have your copy from Winter 1991 (above) – you should feel proud of all the vital conservation work you have helped make happen in this region. Thank you!

ongoing efforts to improve the water quality throughout the entire Chesapeake Bay.

Food. Water. Jobs. Education. Heritage. Recreation. Nature nourishes our communities in so many ways. This past year has demonstrated to all of us just how vital having access to the outdoors is for our mental and physical wellbeing. NPC remains committed to creating and enhancing access to the hiking and water trails, fishing holes, vistas, and other recreational opportunities that make Northcentral PA such a special place to live, work, play, and visit.

***“The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC) logo has a new look, although the hard-working organization remains the same! The new logo represents the expanded scope of NPC’s conservation impact across the region, and we are so grateful for the ongoing support of our membership. Because of you, we are able to continue taking on projects, and conserving lands that support the environmental well-being, and recreational needs of, our communities. Thank you so much for all of your support, and we hope that you enjoy the new logo as much as we do!”***

- Tiffani Kase, NPC Board Chair

Bar Bottom Update

***It’s official! The Bureau of Forestry has taken over ownership of the ‘Bar Bottom’ property. This 112-acre addition to the Loyalsock State Forest has not only expanded public access to Bar Bottom Hollow and the surrounding public land, but also helped conserve the overall natural beauty of the Loyalsock Valley!***

When the bidding started at the auction for the ‘Bar Bottom’ property last summer, THIS is the moment that Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC) Executive Director, Renee’ Carey, was holding her breath for. This full circle moment, from recognizing the community value and conservation significance of a piece of land, to ensuring that it will be cared for and available for generations to come. **And members of NPC made it all possible! THANK YOU!**

The incorporation of this land into the Loyalsock State Forest is significant because it makes it easier for outdoor recreationalists to access Bar Bottom Hollow and will help with management of this block of State Forest Land. Located east of Jacoby Falls (another popular hiking destination that NPC helped conserve access to), Bar Bottom Hollow boasts several spectacular waterfalls throughout the gorge. Hikers can access the Hollow by hiking in from Jacoby Falls or Wallis Run (please note that there is no public way to access the property from the Route 87 side of the Creek).

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DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • January 1 to March 31, 2021

<b>BOBCAT (\$1000)</b> Wayne H. & Carol Scott Sr.	<b>BLACK CHERRY (Continued)</b> Anthony & Elvira Ferraro Nick & Debbie Goff Henry F. Hartmann Jr. Twin Valley Hunting Club Ronald Johnson Rudy & Carol Kafer Mr. & Mrs. Seth Keller Patricia Lane Ed Lawrence & Catherine McLaughlin Josephine Lewis Lloyd Wilson Chapter of Trout Unlimited Aaron Lyon Ted & Judee Lyon Shawn McLaughlin Patterson Lumber Co. Inc. Thom & Amie Penfield Jeff & Kathy Prowant Stephen & Stephanie Radulski Lance E. Robson Slate Run Sportsmen Linda Stein Henry & Ann Street Dr. Douglas Wion Alex & Tracie Witter	<b>RED OAK (Continued)</b> Gary Metzger Mountain Graphics Suzann & Bill Parsons Bee G. Stratton Trust Cynthia Venn & Herbert Baker Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Dorothy Yannaccone <b>SUGAR MAPLE (\$35)</b> Dan & Patti Alters Jerry & Marian Haag Kathy Hollick Dr. Lester G. Kleckner Louis & Susan Prevost Sandy Rife <b>WHITE PINE (\$25)</b> Kay Chapman Mary Cosgrove Dennis & Holly Dusza John Koyen Ryan Little Deen McKillips Stash & Helene Nawrocki John & Judy Ryder Ryan & Sarah Satalin	<b>CONTRIBUTIONS (Continued)</b> John & Cathy Miller Susan Post Shirley Rightmire Estate Sam Shaheen Christopher Sides Sharon Sides Roy A. Siefert Alvin L. Snowiss Chalmer Van Horn Robert G. & Rose Ann Wallace <b>YEAR END APPEAL</b> Drs. Eberhard & Mary F. Passarge Dr. John & Margaret Piper Jeff & Kathy Prowant Marty & Cynthia Walzer  <b>In memory of Dr. Steven Rush</b> Randy & Tammy Carey  <b>In memory of Don Hill</b> Randy & Tammy Carey  <b>In memory of Wilbur Elliott</b> Richard & Grace Carey  <b>In memory of Dolf Cillo</b> Richard & Grace Carey  <b>In memory of Bill &amp; Ethel Naylor</b> Samuel & Darlene Godfrey
<b>BLACK BEAR (\$500)</b> Sean Erno & Katherine Durrwachter-Erno Susan Joshi Lycoming County Conservation District Stephen & Dorothy Schopfer Blair & Alice Schuster	<b>WHITETAILED DEER (\$250)</b> Ed & Linda Alberts Karl K. Baldys Esq. & Karen M. Baldys Malcolm Barlow John M. Confer Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. Brian Haas Gary & Susan Harris Steve & Deb Martin Drs. Eberhard & Mary F. Passarge Gleghorn & Smith Insurance Agency Dan & Linda Wolfe	<b>RED OAK (\$50)</b> Dave & Joanne Dahl Dr. Robert Ecker Romey & Heather Fagnano Lynn & Dennis Greenly Charles A. Grieb, AIA Bob & Mary Guglielmi Ralph Harnishfeger Sue King John A. Leo Paul Lumia	<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b> Anonymous Dennis & Linda Ault Mary Brandenburg Ron Butler Rebecca Ferguson First Community Foundation Partnership of PA Chris Herrman William & Sarmite Judson  <b>Thank you for supporting the work of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy!</b>





## Amphibians in Springtime

Spring is a great time to learn about the wonderful world of amphibians! It is this time of year, after the first warm rain of the season, when parades of frogs, toads, and salamanders, make a mass exodus from their winter habitats to vernal pools to mate and lay eggs (like the wood frog egg mass, seen here!). Vernal pools are ephemeral forest ponds, fed by snow, rain or groundwater, and blanketed in leaves from a healthy forest. By conserving lands, NPC is helping to care for Pennsylvania's amphibians. It is vital to not only conserve vernal pools, but also the surrounding uplands where these breeding species spend the remainder of their lifetime.



Wood frog egg mass

*"One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, "What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?"*

- Rachel Carson

## Planned Gifts Make a Big Impact

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, but will yield large and lasting returns for future generations. Please consult with your financial advisor to establish a planned gift for NPC. Although there is no obligation to let us know, we would be pleased to hear from you if you are planning such a gift, so that we may sincerely thank you in this lifetime!

### **Q. What is a conservation easement?**

**A.** A conservation easement is a legal document that outlines how a property can be used. The property remains in private ownership and on local tax rolls while providing public benefits such as groundwater recharge, cleaning the air, and wildlife habitat. The conservation easement can allow things such as agriculture, forestry, habitat improvement, and other open space uses. The conservation easement also notes any permitted residential, commercial, and industrial uses of the property; including where any additional houses may be built and if any sub-division will be allowed. Once a conservation easement is granted, the landowner can still give, sell or otherwise transfer the property. The conservation easement is perpetual and applies to the donor and all future owners.

The NPC staff is available to discuss this conservation option further with any willing landowners, contact the office at 570-323-6222 or [rcarey@npcweb.org](mailto:rcarey@npcweb.org).



The Shade Hollow conservation easement provides an important wildlife corridor in Clinton county and offers pictorial views, like this one, for the community to enjoy.



## The Harbingers of Spring!

by Tamara Wagner, NPC Land Steward Specialist

They are here! Have you heard the spring peeps calling, seen the skunk cabbage pushing through the just thawed ground, or felt that tickle of pollen in your nose? Spring is showering us with her signs. Here at NPC, spring means the beginning of field visits to see all of our conservation easements for 2021!



One of the earliest plants to emerge, skunk cabbage can be found in wetlands across the state.

Spring is proving to be a perfect time to get the lay of the land. While I was unable to make many visits last spring, our office is already out and about seeing the fresh beginnings of spring on easement lands! The cool season grasses are still low underfoot and paths easy to access. Our spring visits have included wetland areas such as the PPL easement and Logue-McMahon. These sites are brimming with skunk cabbage, trout lily, and the beginnings of duckweed.

We have also been out to numerous easements boasting gorgeous stream and river banks! Fishing season will be underway by the time you are reading this and many of our easement landowners are fortunate to have such amazing access right on their properties! We have enjoyed walking the riparian areas at such sites as the Ault, Zaner, Power Dam, and Johnson easements. Best of luck to all of those enjoying some spring fishing! Keep looking for these sights, sounds, and other signs of spring!



The Joshi conservation easement conserves the water quality of the stream traveling through the property.



Hikers explore the Bar Bottom Hollow area already owned by the Bureau of Forestry. NPC's addition makes accessing these public lands easier! Photo Credit: Nadine Sapiente.

## Bar Bottom Update *continued*

A cold-water stream in which trout reproduce naturally also winds through the land before entering the Loyalsock Creek. As part of the State Forest system, this water resource will be stewarded for the benefit of the wildlife that need it and the people that enjoy it.



Adjacent to Bar Bottom, Jacoby Falls (another popular hiking destination that NPC helped conserve access to) provided some spectacular views of the waterfall in transition during the spring warmup. Photo Credit: Adam Seto.





## A Chilly Start to the 2021 'Stream Season'

The Northcentral Stream Partnership didn't let cold and ice get in the way this winter. The partners were out doing site visits to help narrow down where we'll work this year and determine if new sites were a good fit for the Partnership.

The crew also was at work in a stream in January. Yes, January! The landowner had an old pipe crossing that had failed – the pipe was partially crushed. This caused the stream crossing to be a little higher than it should have been. That slight increase in height was backing up water creating an over-widened pocket of water.

For some perspective, upstream and downstream from the crossing the stream was about 4-feet to 5-feet wide. The over-widened area was about 25-feet wide.

When water backs up the water will warm up. When the flow of water is slowed it gives the sunshine time to warm up the water. Small increases in water temperature can have huge impacts on what macroinvertebrates (water bugs) and fish can live in the stream. That warm water will stay warm for some distance after it leaves the over widened area.

Another water quality issued caused by slow water in overwidened areas is sediment. The sediment has time to drop out. This creates a "mucky" stream bottom instead of a rocky stream bottom. This smothers the macroinvertebrates (water bugs) and decreases the types of food available for fish.



*The Northcentral Stream Partnership's project at Sechler Run continues to receive a lot of interest from the public thanks to the nature path that meanders along the stream.*

January is not normally when we're doing work. This project was actually scheduled and prepped for a December project date. However, mother nature had other ideas and about 18-inches of snow fell on the site after the rock had already been delivered.

The group decided to move ahead in January. We wanted to lower the crossing and allow the over-widened area to readjust to its natural stream channel so a design for streambank stabilization could be drawn up later in the spring. Plus, we wanted to get the stone out of the way before spring planting.

So, on a cold, windy day in January with many insulated layers and hand warmers and toe warmers the Watershed Manager from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection gave the new crew members from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission a workshop on at-grade stream crossings.

There was ice forming on the over-widened area. Really. Ice. And the crew was in the stream!

Logs were delivered to the site in March and the streambank stabilization work will happen this summer. I think the crew is hoping it's warmer out and they won't need to wear anything that is insulated.

February was spent doing site visits, drawing designs, and creating materials lists.

March, had the partners back out and in a stream. This stream flows along a cropped field. The landowner wanted us to get the work done before he started planting. Once he had crops in the ground, the work couldn't happen without impacting the crops being raised. We had a window in the spring to get the



*The 'Stream Partnership' worked to stabilize the streambank and re-connect the stream with its floodplain at a site in March, so the local farmer/landowner could get his crops planted in the spring.*



*The 'Stream Partnership' crew preps a site for an at-grade stream crossing.*

log work done to stabilize the streambank and re-connect the stream with its floodplain.

It was much warmer than January and not as windy. The crew did have layers on and still used the "cold water geo-fabric attachment" technique, but they didn't need insulated layers or hand warmers.

Normally, the geo-fabric is nailed to a log structure after the structure is fully installed and rebar-ed in place. The cold water technique is a little different. The log that will have the fabric attached to it is fitted into place. Once they know how it needs to lay they note where the geo-fabric needs attached. The log is dislodged and the excavator operator holds the log while the crew quickly nails the geo-fabric in place. Their gloves get wet, but they aren't submerging their arms. Once the fabric is attached, the log is put back in place and the fabric walked out.

The geo-fabric is used to help trap fine sediment behind the log structure. This helps re-build the streambank and also provides more stability to the log structure.

This site was another 2-step site. The crew put in a stabilized stream crossing back in September 2020 at the site. At the time, the landowner was agreeable to the crossing, and asked the partners to look upstream at the streambank that was falling into the stream channel.

How we pay for the work can be confusing at times, but it's important to understand the various funding sources that are at work in our region. There are often multiple funding streams involved in a project (more on that in another newsletter). All of the work outlined in this article was done using a single grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Grant Program. The Growing Greener program is funded through the Environmental Stewardship Fund.

We recently received a distribution of \$1,866 from the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania. If you're working with FCFP on your community giving plan, you can discuss with them how to support NPC through this fund.



## The Worlds End Challenge

Last year NPC had planned to lead a group hike on the Butternut Trail at Worlds End State Park to celebrate the 30th anniversary. Portions of the Butternut Trail traverse NPC's 'Flynn' partnered acquisition. NPC purchased the 'Flynn' property, over 600 acres of prime forest land, in 1993 to form the northern and eastern boundaries of Worlds End State Park. While planning the hike, we realized the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) was planning a similar hike on the same weekend as part of their Sullivan County Hikes and Bikers series: The Worlds End Challenge. So, naturally, we teamed up!

Of course, the event was postponed last year due to COVID-19. Recently, EMHR reached out and asked if we'd lead the hike this year as part of The Worlds End Challenge. Their two-day event, May 22 – May 23, challenges hikers to visit every Worlds End State Park vista/overlook over the course of the weekend.

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, the event is limited to 50 people. All guidelines, including masks and social distancing, will be applied where necessary.

Registration is \$10. For more information and how to register, please visit: [www.emheritage.org/events](http://www.emheritage.org/events).



*Butternut Vista is one of six scenic vistas highlighted in the Worlds End Challenge.*