

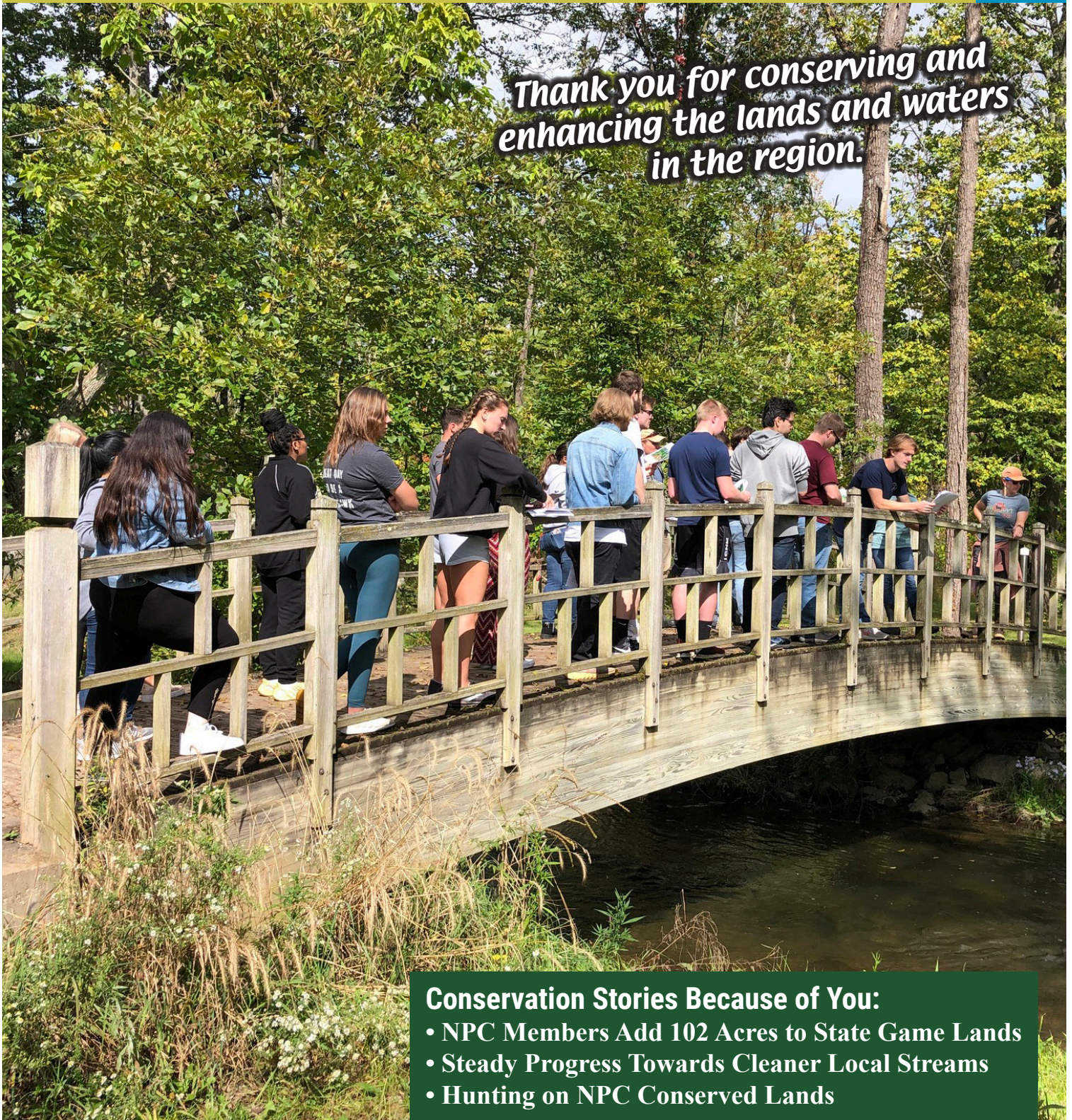
Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Conserving and enhancing the lands and waters of Northcentral PA



Fall 2023

*Thank you for conserving and
enhancing the lands and waters
in the region.*



Conservation Stories Because of You:

- NPC Members Add 102 Acres to State Game Lands
- Steady Progress Towards Cleaner Local Streams
- Hunting on NPC Conserved Lands



View from the recently conserved 'Anderson Hill' property, looking south towards SGL 134.

NPC Members Help Add 102 Acres to State Game Lands

Conservation happens at varying speeds. Some projects take years, if not decades to navigate and complete and other projects happen in weeks. You, as a member of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, invest in both slow and fast conservation. Providing the support to build trust over time and work through questions and contemplations as well as supplying the resources to act when an opportunity presents itself.

Back in March 2023 there was a need for fast conservation. The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy was contacted about two parcels adjacent to State Game Lands 134 being sold by auction about 3 weeks later. The parcels lay side by side. One shares its western boundary with existing State Game Lands and they both share their northern boundary with existing State Game Lands.

It didn't take long to find out the Pennsylvania Game Commission was interested in the parcels. The parcels would provide management access into an area of the existing State Game Lands that doesn't have that access

now. Access for management allows projects to improve habitat for wildlife and support and improve the ecosystem services the property provides.

NPC was the high bidder at the April auction. The Commissioners with the Pennsylvania Game Commission approved the acquisition at their July meeting. The paperwork processing is underway, and we hope to transfer the properties to the Game Commission by the end of the year.

However, NPC will own them for at least archery hunting season and early muzzleloader season, if not regular firearm season as well. To help facilitate public use on the properties they were enrolled in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunter Access Program. Anyone who wishes to hunt the properties should contact the NPC office with your name and phone number **570-323-6222**; rcarey@npcweb.org. Please note that access is walk in only. There isn't a public road into the properties or a parking area on the properties.

Aromatic Aster Feeds Pollinators in the Fall



Fall provides unique challenges for many native pollinators. Migrating monarchs need a reliable food source to help fuel them for their long distance trips, while bees need to continue to build up their winter surplus for the long season ahead. While visiting a Tioga County easement, Sara spotted some Aromatic aster in bloom. Aromatic aster is the longest blooming native aster in our area and can flower for 2 months or more - making it an excellent source of food in the fall for your native pollinators! Blooming from September through November, this plant has several common names, including fall aster and wild blue aster.

With over 35 species of native aster in the Commonwealth, there is an aster for nearly every habitat. Aromatic aster is an adaptable species, growing in rocky, sandy soils as well as moist woodland habitat; the one pictured was found growing around the edge of a small pond with plenty of sunlight.

The flower itself does not have a noticeable scent, but the crushed foliage has a pleasant, balsam-like scent.

Thanks to you, conserved land - such as this conservation easement - continues to provide vital habitat and nutrition for your native pollinators to thrive!

Hunting on NPC Conserved Lands

Hunting season is here! The Anderson Hill properties as well as the Coal Creek property are enrolled in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunter Access Program. The properties are open for hunting, but we do ask hunters to provide us with their name and contact information. We also ask that you respect the neighbors and avoid parking or using their properties to access to these properties.

If you have any questions or want to hunt the properties, please contact Renee' at 570-323-6222 or rcarey@npcweb.org.



Be Safe, Be Seen! Even non-hunters should wear blaze orange while enjoying the woods during hunting season.

Steady Progress Towards Cleaner Local Streams

This summer flew by!!

Projects on Schwaben Creek (Northumberland County), an Unnamed Tributary to the West Branch of Chillisquaque Creek (Montour County), Susquehecka Creek (Snyder County), and Turtle Creek (Union County) are just a handful of the places the northcentral stream partnership worked this summer.

In September, a group of Susquehanna University students had the opportunity to visit the Turtle Creek project site (cover photo). The class - made up of political science, business, communications, and education majors - toured the project to help better understand the connection between conservation and everyday life.

The group discussed water quality, how macroinvertebrates are used to measure water quality, as well as how projects in farm fields can help public drinking water systems, and the water that comes out of their kitchen tap.

Your support is not only helping to improve the water quality in local streams, but also helping to build a better understanding of the impact conservation has on daily living for today and future generations!

The pollinator buffer planted at State Game Lands 134 along Plunketts Creek in 2021 was POPPING with color this summer and the great spangled fritillary butterflies were everywhere! Not only does this buffer planting look great and support pollinators – it's also helping to stabilize the streambank.



While the contractor and PFBC crew continue to work in the background, Cameron Englehart (far right, PFBC), Jason Fellon (center, PA DEP), and Christina Bohensky (far left, PA DEP) discuss the completed work.



NPC's Annual Clinton County Dinner

When: Wednesday, 11/15/23

Where: Stella A's Bar & Grill
(219 East Main St., Lock Haven)

Time: 6:00pm Dinner (5:00pm cash bar and socializing)

Cost: \$35/person

RSVP: Dinner Reservations are due November 8, 2023 by noon

NPC members have played a major role in helping to conserve land and improve access to a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities throughout Clinton County. This year's featured speaker is LaKeshia Knarr, Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Director, of the PA Wilds Center. The PA Wilds Center is a non-profit dedicated to integrating conservation and economic development in a way that strengthens and inspires Clinton county and the surrounding Pennsylvania Wilds region.

NPC Executive Director, Renee' Carey, will wrap the evening up during dessert with an update on NPC's happenings and future plans.

Reservations can be made online at npcweb.org, by calling the NPC office at 570-323-6222, or by mailing a check to the NPC office.



NPC helped conserve the Phelps Mills Canoe Access (seen here) in Clinton County.



Live Stakes Thriving on Turtle Creek

In August, Sara revisited one of the Northcentral Stream Partnerships projects along Turtle Creek. Earlier in the summer, she helped Union County Conservation District and Chesapeake Conservancy put in live stakes along the creek.

She was happy to report back that many of the live stakes are loving life and looking great!

As you may already know, you can take cuttings from some tree and shrub species and they'll root on their own. The cuttings, known as live stakes, are pushed into the ground with a couple inches left sticking up.

You may see some purple or pink paint on the part sticking up. After they're cut the live stakes are painted to color code them to species.

Tales from the Trail – NPC Hosts Nan “Dragon Fly” Reisinger

When: Wednesday, 11/1/23

Where: Orlando's Restaurant (8 S Main St, Muncy, PA)

Time: 6:00pm

Cost: FREE and open to the general public. Seating is first come, first serve.

The Appalachian Trail is a public footpath that follows more than 2,100 miles of Appalachian Mountain ridgelines between Maine and Georgia. Traversing the entire AT has been long been a coveted journey of thru hiking enthusiasts everywhere. It's a rigorous and rewarding trek that each year thousands of hikers attempt; only about one in four makes it all the way.

For Nan “Dragon Fly” Reisinger, she not only completed the journey, but in doing so also earned the title as the oldest female hiker to complete the AT in one year. On November 1, NPC will welcome Nan to Orlando's Restaurant in Muncy to share her story with the community.

From Fly Fishing to Forest Bathing, THANK YOU for helping to spread the NPC mission and share the joys of nature at a variety of educational events and festivals this summer!



Forest Bathing at Worlds End State Park.

In July, NPC's Forest Bathing workshop at Worlds End State Park had participants noticing movement and rootedness, thinking about our favorite tree, and sharing in wintergreen tea. Special thanks to our partners on this event: Deep Green Journey, Loyalsock Foundation, and Friends of Worlds End State Park!

In August, NPC collaborated with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Little Pine State Park, Susquehanna Trout Unlimited, and Lloyd Wilson Trout Unlimited to host a free fly fishing workshop. It was a full house on a blue sky day to learn about fly fishing and practice a roll cast! NPC is proud to be a fishing tackle loaner site. We have flyrods and spinning rods you can borrow at any time.

In September, NPC volunteer Julie Weaver, and staff, spent a rainy Saturday afternoon at the Hometown Science Series & Festival in Wellsboro. Visitors to the NPC booth had the opportunities to sort and identify different macroinvertebrates to help understand how these "waterbugs" serve as water quality indicators.



Fly fishing at Little Pine State Park.



Sorting macroinvertebrates at the Hometown Science Series & Festival.

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***Thank you for
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the work of the
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Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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The holidays are fast approaching and we have an easy, high impact, low waste suggestion...

Give the gift of NPC membership this year! This unique, one of a kind gift in the name of your loved ones won't get lost in the shuffle of the season's rush, and it will keep on giving long into the new year. All you need is your recipient's address or email address and we'll take care of the rest!

Contact to the office at 570-323-6222 or visit www.npcweb.org/donate for details.

Is NPC in Your Will?

Remembering NPC in your will can be a way to leave a legacy to future generations or honor loved ones.

If you have already included us in your will, please be sure to let us know so we can thank you now!"

NPC • PO Box 2083 • Williamsport, PA 17703
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www.npcweb.org

Mark Your Calendar!

What NPC events are you going to attend?? More information will be posted on our website, Facebook page and e-news as decisions are made and details are finalized!

- **November 1** – Nan "Drag'n Fly" Reisinger, the oldest female thru-hiker of the Appalachian Trail presents her story at Orlando's in Muncy – FREE program, seating is limited; first come, first seated
- **November 15** – Annual Clinton County Dinner at the Stella A's Bar & Grill, Lock Haven. \$35/person, (See page 5)
- **March 22, 2024** – Celebrity Waiter Night, additional details TBD.