

# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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



Winter 2024

## Conservation Stories Because of You:

- Conservation of the 64-Acre 'Knob Mountain' Easement
- Conservation of the 29-Acre 'Brucklacher' Easement
- The Stream Team Leads Tours of Projects
- 'A Night for Nature' and Other Upcoming Events
- Anderson Hill Added to SGL 134



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



## NPC Members Help Conserve the 64-Acre 'Knob Mountain' Easement

A true sportsman understands and champions conservation. In fact, hunters have been some of the conservation movement's biggest advocates since the beginning. This past year, NPC had the opportunity to work with a passionate sportsman committed to doing his part through the conservation of his 64-acre property in Columbia County.

The landowner grew up hunting in the Berwick area, and through friendly connections had the opportunity to hunt this particular plot of land on Knob Mountain Road in Briar Creek Township over the years. Sitting at the base of Knob Mountain, this stretch of land acts as a highway for white-tailed deer, turkey, bear, and other wildlife. As the landowner explains it, the neighboring farmland is the "refrigerator", the mountain to the north is the "bedroom," and the property serves as the "hallway," connecting the habitat for the wildlife to roam. So, when the property came up for sale in 2004, he jumped at the opportunity to call this piece of woodland his own.

Knowing that he wanted to conserve the wildlife habitat for generations to enjoy beyond his lifetime, he thought back to a conversation he had with NPC Executive



*Wetlands on the Knob Mountain easement provide food, water, and shelter for a variety of species.*

Director, Renee' Carey, nearly 15 years ago. At that time, the landowner was a member of the Fishing Creek Sportsmen's Association. The Association worked with NPC to establish conservation easements to ensure public access to Fishing Creek. With that positive experience in mind, the landowner reached out to NPC to explore donating a conservation easement on his land with NPC as well.

Fast forward to December of 2023, the 'Knob Mountain' conservation easement is officially a part of the landowner and NPC's legacies!

To read the full story and see more photos, please visit [www.npcweb.org](http://www.npcweb.org).

## Save the Date for 'A Night for Nature'

You're invited to join NPC on **4/21/24** for a fun-filled evening at Turkey Hill Brewing Company (THBC) in Bloomsburg, PA. This inaugural event benefitting NPC will feature live music, a silent auction, great food, and the release of THBC's "HELLESbender" beer. So what does NPC, a brew master, and our state amphibian all have in common? Clean, healthy water resources, that's what!

To honor NPC's work to improve the water quality of our local streams, THBC is making a special helles style beer and generously donating a portion of sales to NPC.

Purchase of a standard ticket includes entry, live music, food, and a drink voucher redeemable for one beer. Tickets are available online at [npcweb.org/a-night-for-nature](http://npcweb.org/a-night-for-nature), or payment can be mailed directly to the NPC office (see back page for details).

*Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event at various levels. To reserve your sponsorship and guarantee sponsor benefits, contact the NPC office at 570-323-6222 or visit the event page for details.*

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*On the cover: Students "fish" for macros with NPC board member, Lisa Strouse, at the Celebration of PA, Woods, Wilds & Rivers event hosted by East Lycoming Education Foundation.*



*Members of the Northcentral Stream Partnership lead a tour of the Canoe Camp Creek projects.*

## The 'Stream Team' Leads Tours of Past Projects

From Snyder to Tioga counties, the Northcentral Stream Partnership had another busy year in 2023 across the region, working to improve the health of your local streams!

One of the best ways to learn about streambank stabilization is to visit sites where work was done in the past. As part of the team's annual wrap-up meeting, they visited two sites across an intersection from each other. One was done two years ago and the other was done two months ago. Comparing the sites helps everyone see how the system is responding to the structures and can direct the design of other projects in the same watershed.

Before closing out the year, the team visited Canoe Camp Creek in Tioga county to give a tour of the projects in the area to visiting politicians. The group was very excited to show off the progress on the creek – including how the creek can now access its floodplain and the single log vanes were already starting to capture sediment and! As the log vanes capture sediment they help build back some of the streambank that was lost while maintaining the floodplain access for the stream. As sediment builds up, seeds from different plants will land there and germinate, helping to add vegetation to the streambanks.

In the off-season, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will be visiting sites and creating designs for 2024 and 2025. Once the designs for the 2024 projects are complete, the PFBC will have an estimate on how many days projects will take. That information will allow a schedule for the 2024 season to be drafted.

The Partnership has funding to get started with the 2024 construction season. NPC submitted an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection earlier this year for funding to continue the Partnership's work. Grant announcements should be made in January...just as we're mentally preparing to step our boots back in those frigid March waters!

## 2022 Financial Report

The 2022 audit wrapped up in October 2023. The information provided is based on audited financial statements prepared by McKonly & Asbury. Full copies of the audited financial statements, IRS Form 990, and Bureau of Charitable Organizations filings are available by contacting the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy Office.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<b>Assets</b>			
Cash & investments		\$2,368,323.00	
Other assets		\$7,451.00	
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>\$2,375,774.00</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Net assets		\$2,304,860.00	
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>		<b>\$2,375,774.00</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grants 83%	\$ 1,072,377.00	83%	
Contributions 24%	\$ 307,430.00	24%	
Memberships 6%	\$ 75,269.00	6%	
Net investment return -13%	\$ (163,726.00)	-13%	
Project income and reimbursements 0%	\$ 4,400.00	0%	
Fundraising income 0%	\$ 968.00	0%	
Misc. income 0%	\$ 601.00	0%	
	\$ 1,297,319.00		
<b>Expense</b>			
Conservation program services 92%	\$ 955,793.00	92%	
Management and general 6%	\$ 61,117.00	6%	
Fundraising 2%	\$ 16,862.00	2%	
	\$ 1,033,772.00		



## NPC Members Help Conserve the 29-Acre 'Brucklacher' Easement

Just a few miles outside of the northern tier town of Wellsboro, PA, sits the 138-acre homestead of Barry and Jane Brucklacher. Originally a dairy farm, the sprawling hayfields are still productive today, harvested by a local farmer to support a mushroom grower in Kennett Square, PA. A woodland of aspen, beech, maple, and oak trees provide food and shelter for white-tailed deer, bears, bobcats, and a variety of other native wildlife. A network of trails meander through the woodland by two ponds and a winding stream on its way to Elk Creek. A trio of donkeys – Jesse James, Tyrone, and Adabel – graze in the pasture. The original barn stores equipment, while the top floor has been converted to serve as a maternity roost for little brown bats, whose population has experienced a severe decline in the past decade. On the outskirts of the property, a portion of the popular Mid State Trail cuts through, providing hikers with picturesque views of the Tioga County countryside. Having bought the property in 1972, the Brucklachers enjoy simple strolls around the grounds together and continue to be grateful for the opportunity to own such a special place. With thoughts of the future, they sought out options to conserve the wildlife habitat, biodiversity, farmland, and natural resources on their property for generations to come.



*Barry and Jane Brucklacher establish a 29-acre conservation easement with NPC.*

Initially, they enrolled 103 acres of their property in the Tioga County Agricultural Farmland Preservation Program. However, they still had hopes to conserve even more of the property. Fortunately, a like-minded neighbor shared her experience with the Brucklachers of conserving her family farm with NPC.

The Brucklachers connected with NPC Land Steward, Sara Schlesinger, to discuss their values and conservation goals. Sara stated, "It was clear that the land was well-loved and stewarded. The forested land along the tributary that flows into Elk Creek prevents the streambank from eroding and washing away, helping to keep excess nutrients from flowing into the creek and elsewhere downstream. Conserving the water resources, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity, on the property supports the overall environmental well-being of the community."

After a year of more meetings, paperwork, surveys, walk throughs on the land, and all the other in-betweens, NPC wrapped up 2023 with the establishment of the 'Brucklacher' conservation easement!

### A Smooth Survey Brings a Sigh of Relief

Surveying a property doesn't sound glamorous or cutting edge. And, actually, it's neither of those things. The surveyors have to deal with briars, and steep banks, and keep an eye out for ticks all while carrying their equipment over uneven ground. And while they are using equipment with GPS capabilities, it's still the geometry of the Egyptians and Babylonians and Pythagoras, so not very cutting edge.

However, when you get a property surveyed and the envelope shows up in the mail, it is super exciting... and a little nerve wracking. It's exciting to check the research off your list and get one step closer to conserving the land, but surveys can also reveal new challenges!

When you, the NPC membership, made it possible for NPC to purchase the Coal Creek property, we knew a survey was in our future.

The surveyors were actually on the ground with their equipment in October and sent us the maps in



## A Smooth Survey ... *Continued from page 4*

November. The survey crew marked the boundary in November as well.

While the boundary was fairly well marked in some places (most likely the neighbors marking their boundaries) the vast majority of the boundary needed to be freshened up. The surveyors put paint on trees along the boundary and repainted the pins so they are easier to find. They did a great job on some steep terrain.

The most exciting news was there wasn't a single encroachment. Not a single one.

Thank goodness.

We're also thankful to the generous, anonymous donor that covered the cost of the survey.

Eventually, the property will be taken over by the Bureau of Forestry and incorporated into the Tioga State Forest. In the meantime, its remains publically accessible for hunting, hiking, and other outdoor activities, thanks to the NPC membership!



*NPC Land Steward, Sara, and Board Member, Roy, walk the boundary at Coal Creek.*

## 102 Acres Added to SGL 134 – Thanks to You!

You did it! The Anderson Hill property has been officially added to State Game Lands 134!

You helped to conserve these two parcels of land back in April when NPC was able to win the highest bid at auction. The parcels sat next to existing SGL 134 at the time, are close to a block of the Loyalsock State Forest, and near an existing conservation easement held by NPC.

A seasonal stream on the property flows into a tributary of Plunketts Creek, just upstream from where NPC facilitated work in 2020 and 2021 with an Army Reserve Unit to remove the earthen berm. Conserving this forested land will help to improve the water quality of Plunketts Creek, building on work you helped NPC complete in the past. Adding this property to SGL 134 expands the wildlife corridor, enables better forest management practices, and creates improved access to these public lands. All made possible, thanks to support of NPC's members!



*NPC staff and board members and PGC staff tour the Anderson Hill property in March, deciding to bid on it at auction.*



## Community at the Heart of Conservation

While conserving the lands and waters of northcentral Pennsylvania continues to be at the forefront of NPC's mission, your support of NPC is also helping to find ways to connect our community with nature. From a 'Walk in Penn's Woods' group hike to Jacoby Falls to lessons on macroinvertebrates at the 'Celebration of PA Woods, Wilds & Rivers' event, you're helping to inspire our community to develop an appreciation of the region and the conservation projects that support it.

Over the past 3 months, NPC also participated in the Waterville Apple Butter Festival and the Little Pine State Park Fall Festival, hosted the annual Tioga and Clinton county dinners, and welcomed guest speaker, Nan Reisinger, to share her story with the community. Nan, the oldest female hiker to thru hike the Appalachian Trail in one year, was a marvelous storyteller and treated the audience to an array of photos, trail tips, and comedic encounters. Everyone walked away with a good laugh and eager to hit the trail (well, a local trail, at the very least!).

We have many other exciting opportunities for you to connect with nature and with each other already scheduled for the year. Check out the back page for more dates and details. We hope you can join us!



*Volunteers Sue and Rick Sprout's beautiful plant ID display at the NPC booth at the Celebration of PA Woods, Wilds & Rivers was a delight to visitors!*

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*In honor of Harold & Pauline Morley*  
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*In honor of the birth of*  
*Erin Ophelia Smith*  
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**Thank you for supporting  
the work of the  
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## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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### A Night for Nature

Sunday, April 21, 2024 • 5PM to 8 PM  
Turkey Hill Brewing Company, Bloomsburg

Please indicate the number of tickets you wish to purchase in each box.

\_\_\_\_\_ Standard Tickets (\$30/person)

\_\_\_\_\_ 'No Drink' Tickets (\$25/person)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment enclosed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send payment with completed form to:  
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 10** – Environmental Education Expo at Montour Preserve, Danville
- **March 13–14** – Raise the Region
- **March 22** – Celebrity Waiter Night at the Peter Herdic House, Williamsport
- **April 13** – Spring Bike Tune Up
- **April 21** – A Night for Nature at Turkey Hill Brewing Company, Bloomsburg (see page 2)
- **May 4** – Introduction to Fly Fishing at Montour Preserve, Danville
- **June 29** – Family Fishing at Rose Valley Lake, Williamsport
- **July 21** – Forest Bathing at Worlds End State Park, Forksville
- **August 3** – Susquehanna Outdoor Expo, Sunbury

Visit [www.npcweb.org](http://www.npcweb.org) for more details