

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Conserving and enhancing the lands and waters of Northcentral PA



Spring 2024

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



Conservation Stories Because of You:

- Cleaner Waters Flow Through Your Communities
- Shoreline Restoration at F. J. Sayers Reservoir
- Free Beginners Fishing Programs Available for All
- Plans for Restoring the Tioga River Move Forward
- Celebrity Waiter Night Serves up Success

Cleaner Waters Flow Through Your Communities

NPC members have been steadily restoring the health of the rivers and streams throughout the region for over a decade. Your efforts have been so successful that NPC has once again been awarded a Growing Greener Plus grant. This \$450,000 grant helps fuel NPC's work with the Northcentral Stream Partnership - bringing cleaner, healthier water to your communities!

With funding secured, NPC and the rest of the 'stream team' partners (PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Fish & Boat Commission, County Conservation Districts, and Landowners) didn't waste any time kicking off construction on the 2024 'stream season' in northcentral Pennsylvania!

As expected, there were snow flurries flying as the PA Fish & Boat Commission's stream habitat crew unloaded their tools and started to layout the plan for our first project.

The project site was on a section of Kern Run in Union County at a family farm that had just transferred to the next generation. The family has been developing their management plans and are taking their stewardship responsibilities very seriously.

Last year they put in a stabilized stream crossing. That project led to their interest in learning about how other Best Management Practices could be implemented on their farm.



Savannah (Union County Conservation District) and Dylan and Kaylen (PFBC) are all smiles at the first stream project of the season!

While part of the area being worked on had the cows fenced out for years, the streambanks didn't heal. The continued erosion had created a bit of a braided channel. Getting the streambanks stable helps flush out the sediment that has been building up on the stream bottom. NPC helped explain this and the rest of the process to the landowners to help them get on board with the project.

Once the streambank work is done, a fencing contractor will come in and fence the cows out of the rest of the stream and re-work the one pasture. With these fencing changes, the cows will still be able to cross the stream but won't have full access to the stream.

Simple changes like these can have a big impact on the overall stream health and everywhere else downstream.

On the cover: The 'Stream Team' kicks off a project on Kern Run, Union County.



Sara and her new friends from a PFBC program in March. NPC is collaborating with PFBC to offer two FREE fishing events for beginners. Try something new this year by signing up today!

How to get Hooked on Fishing this Year!

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is collaborating with PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to host two upcoming fishing programs: **Introduction to Fly Fishing on May 4th at Montour Preserve, and Family Fishing Day at Rose Valley Lake on June 29th.**

If you're looking to improve your fishing skills, or even try fishing for the first time, I highly recommend checking out these programs, and/or other similar events offered by PFBC. And the best part is, these programs are all FREE!

Sara Schlesinger, NPC's Land Steward Specialist, shared about her positive experience attending the PFBC Women's Steelhead Fly Fishing. Check out her article at www.npcweb.org/how-to-get-hooked-on-fishing-this-year/ or scan the QR code.



And don't forget, NPC is a fishing tackle loaner location. Spinning rods and fly rods are available to check-out for free so anyone can enjoy fishing and improving their skills without the investment. Thank you, the NPC membership, for helping to make the joy of fishing accessible to everyone!

NPC Members are Helping to Restore the Shoreline at F. J. Sayers Reservoir

NPC has been teaming up with the stream habitat section of the PA Fish & Boat Commission for years. So when the lake habitat section reached out for support on their latest project, NPC happily answered the call!

The F. J. Sayers Reservoir is a man-made lake in Bald Eagle State Park owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). While the USACE manages water levels, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of State Parks oversees public recreation at the park.

Several areas of the lakeshore have erosion issues. There are two main factors leading to the erosion, a steep shoreline and wave action from the motorized boats traveling the lake.

A plan to stabilize erosion in various areas and add some habitat structures for fish was developed; however, an additional partner to pull the funding together, manage the grants, and order the materials was needed. An email and a phone call later and NPC was working to submit for grant funding.

Recently the Pennsylvania Lake Management Society awarded NPC a grant for one of the more popular areas at the Reservoir. The shoreline work will happen in late



Reef balls and felled trees provide better fish habitat at F. J. Sayers Reservoir.

May or early June. The project prep and submerged offshore habitat work happened on a cold and blustery March day.

To learn about how NPC members are helping to restore this shoreline, visit www.npcweb.org/npc-helping-to-restore-the-shoreline-at-f-j-sayers-reservoir/ or scan the QR code.



Celebrity Waiters Patty Confer and Peachie O'Connor.

Celebrity Waiter Night Serves up Success

Thank you to the Peter Herdic House staff and everyone that came out to show their support at NPC's Annual Celebrity Waiter Night in March. And a very special thanks to all of our Celebrity Waiter Volunteers!

- Patty Confer, Junior League of Williamsport
- Susan Durrwachter, CNN
- Rick Mason, Photographer
- Tony Nardi, Fish Real Estate
- Peachie O'Connor, Community Volunteer
- Dr. Michael Reed, Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Dr. Zach Ritter, UPMC
- Jordan Sheffer, Central Contracting, LLC
- Mark Shuman, iHeart Media

Plans for Restoring the Tioga River Move Forward

Thanks to the unwavering support of its members, NPC proudly serves a 12-county region across Northcentral PA. This extensive footprint allows NPC the opportunity to champion the environmental wellbeing of the region, one community conservation project at a time! However, operating within such a widespread area presents its own set of challenges; like being in all places at once or initiating projects in towns where NPC staff or board members do not personally reside.

Yet, NPC's roots lie in the communal power of town talks, firmly believing that building trust and transparency are essential for any conservation project to be successful!

A prime example of this is the Coal Creek property located in Blossburg. There, staff have been actively participating in Borough Council meetings for over a year and a half. These meetings enable NPC to maintain communication not only with the local community but also with project partners like the Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and Kleinfelder engineering. These connections help to share information and ensure that the community's needs are considered throughout the project.

Last month, community members and landowners gathered to learn more about the plans for treating the Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) affecting the Tioga River. NPC was asked to moderate the presentations and facilitate the meetings, a testament to NPC's ongoing outreach. Nearly 80 individuals, including landowners and organization members directly impacted by the project, had the opportunity to learn about the plans.

The meeting provided an overview of the three streams with AMD issues affecting the Tioga River, followed by a "tour" of the proposed treatment system. Attendees gained insights into how each stream – Morris Run, Fallbrook, and Coal Creek – would be contained and pumped to the Active Treatment Plant (ATP), along with details on funding, operations, maintenance, and paperwork requirements for impacted landowners.

For a recap on this meeting, visit www.npcweb.org/town-talks-a-key-component-of-conservation/ or scan the QR code.



Thanks to the NPC membership for their steadfast support in the Coal Creek acquisition and the broader Tioga River restoration efforts. Your membership not only contributes to restoring the Tioga River but also empowers local communities to voice their concerns and inquiries.



NPC board member, Steve Young (left) reviews the Coal Creek map with a landowner.

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

570-323-6222

www.npcweb.org



Virginia spring beauty found on Rishel-Grove conservation easement in Columbia County

Annual Conservation Easement Monitoring Begins

Annual monitoring has begun for NPC's 52 Conservation Easements (CE). These visits do more than ensure that the properties follow the terms of the CE, they are a great opportunity to engage with landowners and discuss goals for their properties. NPC staff can help connect landowners with other organizations for professional guidance, such as erosion control and Forest Management Plans.

NPC has collaborated with landowners and professional foresters to submit applications for grant funding from WeConservePA to have Forest Management Plans written for their eased properties. The objective of these grants is to encourage more landowners to take an active role in managing the resources on their property, with professional guidance.



The Green Hills Farm conservation easement in Lycoming County conserves important agricultural soils and provides space for groundwater recharge.

'Sundaes in the Garden' A Sweet Celebration at NPC's Annual Membership Meeting

Throughout the past year YOU, the NPC membership, have helped to conserve some amazing places, improved eroded streambank throughout the region, and created numerous opportunities for people to engage with nature. Your ongoing support has paved the way for exciting new projects, making this event the cherry on top!



Please join us for an ice cream social at NPC's Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, June 30, from 2 pm to 4 pm. The gathering will take place in the garden and on the deck at NPC's new office, located at 785 PA-87, Montoursville, PA. A brief membership meeting, including the election of board directors, will take place at 2:30pm.

Both members and non-members are welcome to join to learn more about NPC! We'll provide ice cream, toppings, beverages, and yard games. Some seating will be provided, but guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs. Additionally, we're delighted to announce that Painterland Sisters will be supporting the event by offering their organic skyr yogurt as a lactose-free option.

This casual celebration is family-friendly, and all are welcome! Registration is encouraged, not required. To register or if you have questions, please contact the NPC office at 570-323-6222 or hbyers@npcweb.org.

DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • January 1 to March 31, 2024

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2024 A NIGHT FOR NATURE SPONSORS

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 Kris Krebs*
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**For just \$1 a day, you can
 become a member of
 NPC's inaugural
 Bedrock Society.
 Scan to learn more!**





Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Additional details will be available at npcweb.org, the NPC facebook page, and through email updates.

Mark Your Calendar!

- **April 21** – A Night for Nature at Turkey Hill Brewing Company, Bloomsburg
- **May 4** – Introduction to Fly Fishing at Montour Preserve, Danville (pre-registration required)
- **June 14-16** – Paddle Happy Juniata, Millerstown
- **June 29** – Family Fishing at Rose Valley Lake, Williamsport (pre-registration required)
- **June 30** – ‘Sundaes in the Garden’ at NPC’s Annual Meeting, Montoursville
- **July 21** – Forest Bathing at Worlds End State Park, Forksville
- **August 3** – Susquehanna Outdoor Expo, Sunbury



This year's Family Fishing Day at Rose Valley Lake will be on Saturday, June 29th!