

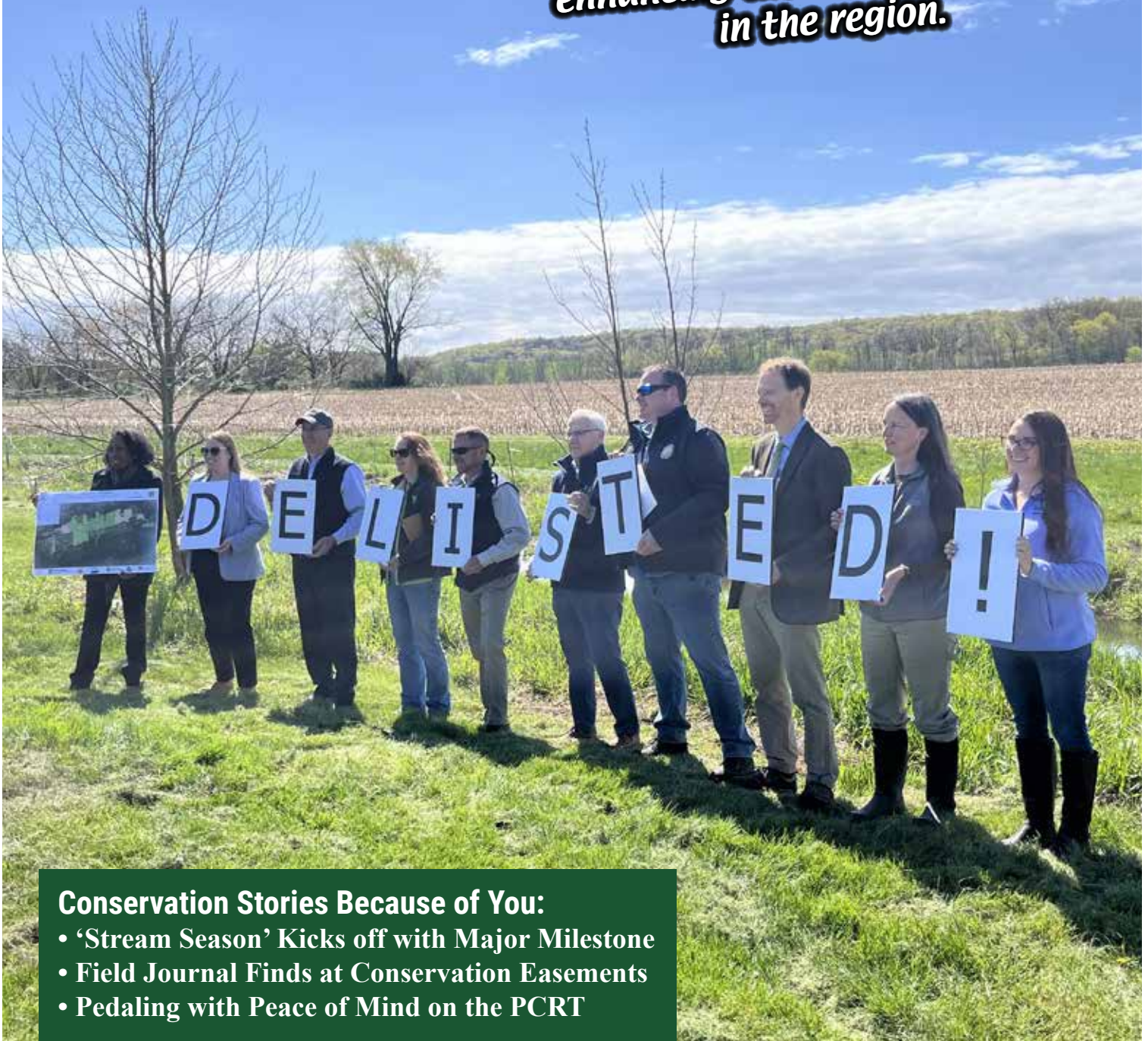
Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Conserving and enhancing the lands and waters of Northcentral PA



Summer 2024

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



Conservation Stories Because of You:

- 'Stream Season' Kicks off with Major Milestone
- Field Journal Finds at Conservation Easements
- Pedaling with Peace of Mind on the PCRT

'Stream Season' Kicks off with Major Milestone

Teamwork, Consistency, and YOU!

Every year, since NPC and our partners came together to form the Northcentral Stream Partnership in 2009, you have been helping to improve the health of the streams throughout our 12-county region.

Just this summer so far, you have helped tackle streambank stabilization projects at streams in Snyder, Centre, Northumberland, and Montour counties.

Your support enables NPC to pull the funding together, manage the grants, and order some of the materials for these projects. THANK YOU!

Celebrating Success on Turtle Creek

Your consistent support of these stream projects led to a major milestone this year, when two stream segments in the Turtle Creek Watershed in Union County were officially “delisted,” or removed from PA’s list of impaired waters.

(Continued on Page 3)



Native trees planted along Turtle Creek stabilize the streambank and provide shade, cooling the stream.



The log structures installed at this site on Susquehecka Creek in Snyder County help ease the pressure on the stream bank and guide the water back to the center of the stream channel.

On the cover: Officials from federal, state, and county agencies, and representatives from NPC and our project partners, gather to celebrate the delisting of 2 segments of Turtle Creek.



In April, NPC teamed up with volunteers from W&L Subaru to clear debris and remove invasive plants from the streambanks of Turtle Creek. W&L Subaru also supported NPC as a ‘Night for Nature’ sponsor. Pictured left to right are Sara (NPC), Jasmin (W&L), and Savannah (Union County Conservation District).

‘Stream Season’ Kicks off with Major Milestone *(Continued from Page 2)*

These stream segments were removed from the list because species of macroinvertebrates, or water bugs, that cannot live in polluted water, can now be found in these segments of tributaries to Turtle Creek.

In other words, YOU DID IT!

With the “delistings” of these two stream segments, NPC and the Northcentral Stream Partnership have demonstrated how working together we can restore the health of our local streams, and improve our local streams for our communities.

This incredible accomplishment belongs to every single member, partner, and supporter of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Northcentral Stream Partnership.

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you for being a part of the team and supporting these ongoing conservation efforts!

Delistings on Turtle Creek

npcweb.org/conservation-partnerships-improve-stream-health/

Field Journal Finds: Conservation Easement Highlights YOU make Possible

Every year, NPC's Land Steward, Sara, checks in on each of NPC's conservation easements across the region. From conserving our farm fields, woods, and streams to ensuring public access in some cases, each of these conservation easements holds a unique set of conservation values that you are helping to care for.

VanHorn and VanHorn Homestead Conservation Easements, Lycoming County



These conservation easements feature mature woodlands and wetlands adjacent to Big Run, a high-quality native trout stream and tributary of Muncy Creek. Here, Sara came across ghost pipe – a unique, native perennial that is all white because it does not contain any chlorophyll!

Zaner, Overlook & Power Dam Conservation Easements, Columbia County



These three conservation easements on a total of 93-acres help ensure public access to Fishing Creek, a beloved destination for anglers and the wider community alike. The remnants of a concrete dam that once supplied water to a millrace can be viewed from the shoreline at the Power Dam conservation easement.

It has been quite a busy year for Sara so far! Each week on the NPC website (NPCweb.org), we have been sharing some of what Sara is seeing in the 'Field Journal Fridays' feature. Here is a look at just a few of the natural highlights from properties that you are helping to conserve!

Richards Conservation Easement, Sullivan County



This picturesque, 21-acre conservation easement helps conserve the water quality of the Loyalsock Creek and the scenic views from the popular Loyalsock Trail.

Bednar Conservation Easement, Tioga County



The Bednar conservation easement conserves a variety of habitats, including a small wetland, open fields, old fields reverting to forest, stone walls, and acres of mature forest. These diverse habitats support a wide array of wildlife, such as the Eastern (Red-Spotted) Newt. Seen here in its "Red Eft" stage, this Pennsylvania native amphibian has a fascinating life cycle, embarking on a remarkable journey of transformation that takes it from water to land and back to water.

(Continued on Page 5)

Field Journal Finds: Conservation Easement Highlights... *(Continued from Page 5)*

Logue-McMahon Conservation Easement, Lycoming County



Nestled next to the Muncy Heritage Park and Nature Trail and the West Branch Susquehanna River, sits NPC's Logue-McMahon conservation easement. The forested riparian buffer on the property helps prevent riverbank erosion and keeps excess nutrients from entering the River.

Chokecherry, pictured here, can be found throughout the conservation easement. This native, understory tree is an important food source for wildlife in the summer, and the fragrant white flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators.

Scott Conservation Easement, Tioga County



The woodlands on this property are home to a variety of native plants, including the Red Trillium, pictured here. Trillium is a fascinating plant that blooms in the spring after taking up to 7 years to develop its first flower, going dormant by mid-summer.

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 NPC in your will, please be sure to let us know so we can thank you now!

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Restoring the Shoreline at F.J. Sayers Reservoir

You have helped NPC become so efficient and capable at executing streambank stabilization projects, that NPC was asked by the lake habitat section of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to help restore a section of shoreline at F. J. Sayers Reservoir in Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County. The team's work at this site not only stabilized the shoreline, but improved fish habitat and access for anglers. For more info visit: www.npcweb.org/npc-helping-to-restore-the-shoreline-at-f-j-sayers-reservoir/.



NPC members help restore a section of eroding shoreline at F. J. Sayers Reservoir in Bald Eagle State Park.

Pedaling with Peace of Mind: NPC Members Bring New Bike Repair Stations to the Pine Creek Rail Trail

Thanks to you, two brand-new bicycle repair stations were installed along the Pine Creek Rail Trail. In collaboration with the Pine Creek Preservation Association and our friends at Tiadaghton State Forest, these stations can now be found at the Cammal Comfort Station and the Tomb Flats Recreation Area. The new repair stations complement the one installed two years ago by NPC and our partners at the Bonnell Flats Access Area.

The Tomb Flats Recreation Area was conserved by NPC members back in 2006. Thank you for helping to conserve and enhance access to outdoor recreational opportunities!

The repair stations are equipped with tools and air pumps to assist with common bike repairs, ensuring that trail users can quickly address issues such as flat tires and minor mechanical problems. Next time you are out on the Pine Creek Rail Trail, you can ride with peace of mind knowing that these repair stations are available to help with any unexpected bike issues.



A trio of cyclists stop to use the new bike repair station that NPC members helped install on the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

Macro Magic: NPC Teaches Students about these Fascinating Water Bugs

Just before school let out for the summer, NPC joined up with a variety of other environmental educators to support Sullivan County Elementary School's 5th Grade Environmental Day!

Sara worked with Madisyn, an AmeriCorps member serving Rider Park this summer, to teach the students about how aquatic macroinvertebrates are indicators of water quality.

Thank you for helping to bring these educational opportunities to our schools. We hope the students are now enjoying their summer vacation, splashing around in their favorite creeks, and keeping an eye out for these amazing macros!



A group of Sullivan County 5th graders learns about macroinvertebrates with NPC.

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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!

- **August 3** – Susquehanna Outdoor Expo, Sunbury
- **September 7** – Hometown Science Festival, Wellsboro
- **September 25** – Fall Lawn and Garden Workshop, Montoursville
- **September/October** – Tioga and Clinton County Regional Dinners, TBD
- **October** – Apple Butter Festival, Waterville
- **October** – Little Pine State Park Fall Festival, Waterville



In May, NPC collaborated with the PA Fish and Boat Commission and a network of skilled volunteers to host an Intro to Fly Fishing Workshop at Montour Preserve. Please visit npcweb.org/news-and-events for details about other exciting, upcoming events!