

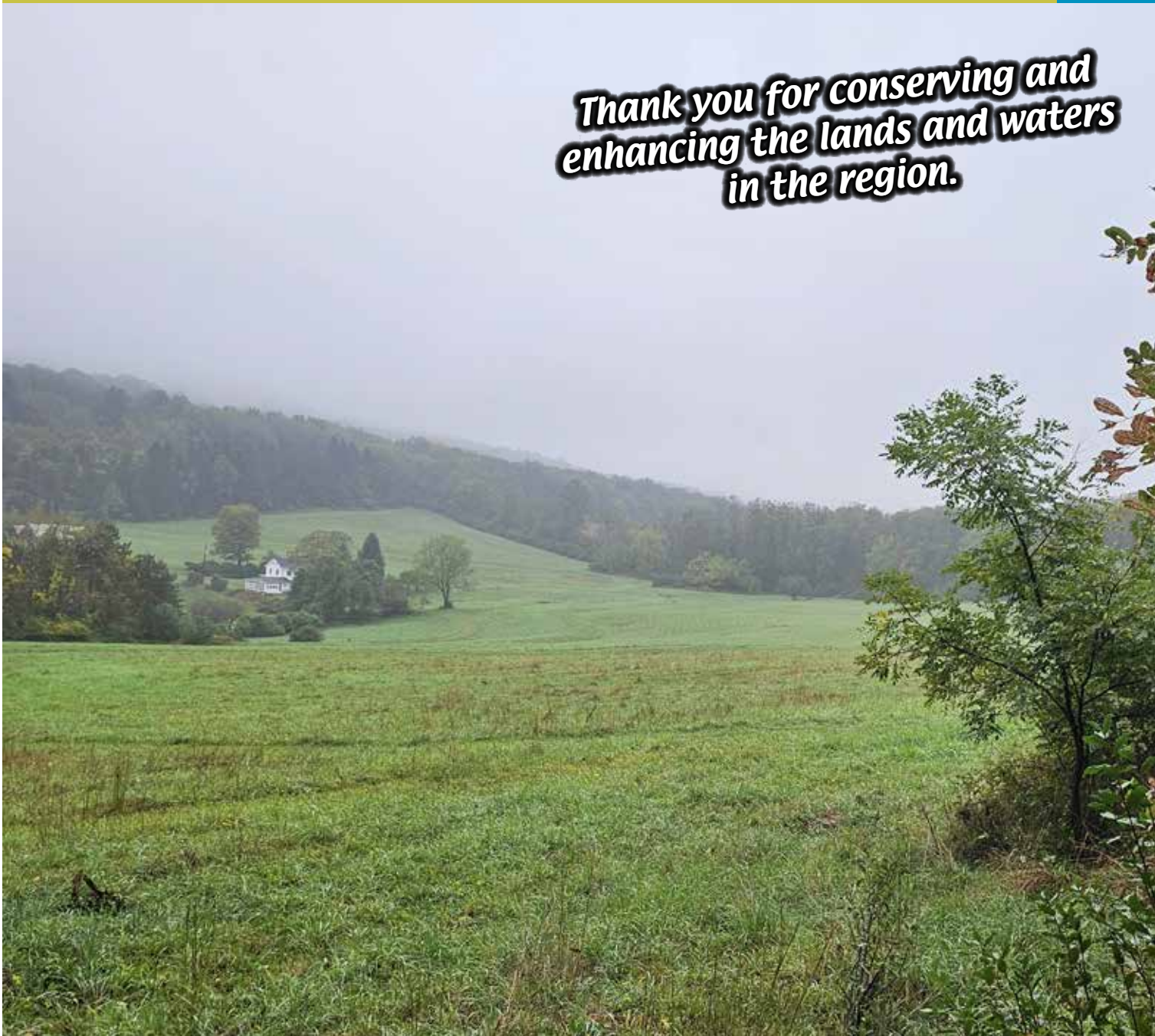
# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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



Winter 2025

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



## **Conservation Stories Because of You:**

- **Land, Legacy & Family: The McMorris Conservation Easement (cover photo)**
- **Progress Towards Restoring the Tioga River**
- **NPC Helps Bicycle Riders Get Ready to Roll**

## Land, Legacy & Family: The McMorris Conservation Easement

*Thanks to YOUR generous support, 60 acres of farmland, forests, and wetlands have been conserved in the heart of Lycoming County! This conservation easement ensures that the McMorris family's land – a cherished gathering place rich with memories of hard work and family bonds – will continue to serve the environmental well-being of our communities and remain a living legacy for future generations to enjoy.*

*To better understand the heart of this project, we sat down with one of the landowners, Marc McMorris, to learn more about his family's deep connection to the land and his experience working with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC) to establish the conservation easement.*

### A Life on the Land

Marc's father, a local physician at the time, originally purchased the farm to give his family a sense of rootedness after moving frequently during his own childhood. Growing up, Marc and his siblings worked alongside their parents to care for horses, cattle, and crops. From early spring to the cool days of fall, they tended gardens and orchards, following the seasonal rhythms that defined their lives. While their childhood was filled with lots of hard work, it also instilled a deep appreciation for the land's unique character and lasting value.

Now, each autumn, as the air fills with the sweet scent of ripe apples, Marc fondly recalls time spent harvesting from their orchards. Together, they



*Dr. David McMorris, Marc's late father, harvested potatoes at the farm with his grandson, David.*



*Carol, the family matriarch, instilled a love for the land through countless hikes around the property. **Pictured:** Carol with three of her children – Scott, Kelly, and Marc – and her grandson, David.*

would pick the fruit by hand, transporting it to the nearby Nippenose Cider Mill, where their wooden kegs would be filled with freshly pressed apple cider. Back at the farm, the home would transform into a bustling hub of activity as Marc's parents, grandparents, cousins, and neighbors gathered to create their homemade apple butter. As they would stir giant copper kettles in the backyard, laughter and stories flowed as freely as the delicious concoction within. The aroma of cooking apple butter filled the air, turning their hard work into treasured gifts for friends and co-workers at Christmas. In those moments, with faces smeared

*Continued on Page 3*

## Land, Legacy & Family: The McMorris Conservation Easement *Continued from Page 2*



Marc McMorris reflected on his experience with NPC, saying, “If you want to conserve the land for the future, this is the best way to do it.” **Pictured:** The third generation of the McMorris family gathered on the front porch at the homestead.

in apple butter and loaves of warm Stroehmann’s bread shared among loved ones, the farm stood as a testament to the deep connection between family and land.

### A Legacy Worth Conserving

Eventually, the McMorris children grew up and pursued their own paths, but the farm remained a gathering place for family and friends. Owning land with that much heart and soul prompted Marc’s father to reach out to NPC for an initial meeting many years ago. Then, after their parents passed away, Marc and his siblings took on the responsibility of ensuring the land’s long-term care. Living in Michigan, Marc witnessed the farmland in his community being transformed into subdivisions, which fueled his desire to conserve their unique property back in Pennsylvania. Together, the siblings decided to pick up where their dad left off, embarking on a journey with NPC to place a conservation easement on their property.

While the process was long and challenging, the NPC staff was there to guide the family through the

whole process. Marc shared, “I had done my own research, but I just didn’t realize all the steps that it took and the amount of time it took with each step. So, the help we got from Sara and Renee [NPC staff] was invaluable.”

### Looking to the Future

Today, the family takes pride in knowing that their land is conserved. They’ve found peace in the knowledge that it will remain a space for future generations to experience the joy, hard work, and connection to nature that they once cherished.

For those considering a similar path, the family encourages patience and research. Marc expanded by encouraging others to “Take full advantage of the help the conservancy [NPC] provides through the process. It can take a long time, but it’s well worth it when it’s done. If you want to conserve the land for the future, this is the best way to do it.”

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



# Progress Toward Restoring the Tioga River

In 2022, thanks to the support of NPC’s members, we were able to acquire 232 acres in Blossburg, Tioga County. This property that you helped secure provides the best access to the largest source of Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) in the Tioga River Watershed. While the outflow is located on a neighboring property, the most practical way to reach it is through NPC’s land.

We recently received a phone call informing us that the construction easement and permanent access easement paperwork will be sent to our attorney for review shortly. We recently received a phone call informing us that the construction easement and permanent access easement paperwork will be sent to our attorney for review shortly.

A construction easement is a legal agreement in which NPC, as the landowner, grants permission for construction activities to take place on the property. This easement outlines the areas that will be used and disturbed during construction. These areas are typically needed to accommodate equipment and materials.

The permanent access easement ensures that the roads and other infrastructure can remain on the property, with NPC not being responsible for their

maintenance or operation. This document will allow the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the operator of the Active Treatment Plant, and any contractors to access the roads and infrastructure for maintenance, inspections, and related activities.

We thought this new round of paperwork presented a good opportunity to provide an update on what has happened so far and what’s ahead.

NPC will retain ownership of the property until the Active Treatment Plant is operational.. We want to ensure that the pumps and other systems are thoroughly tested before NPC transfers the property to the Bureau of Forestry, where it will be added to the Tioga State Forest.

Stay tuned for more updates and progress! We are partnering with several organizations to host a variety of community events in 2025, providing further updates on our work to restore the Tioga River.



A view of Blossburg from the Coal Creek property.



*We’re so excited to introduce you to Susan Martin! Susan joins the NPC staff as our new bookkeeper, bringing years of accounting experience in nonprofit and public service organizations. You can join us in welcoming Susan to the NPC team by emailing her at [smartin@npcweb.org](mailto:smartin@npcweb.org).*



*Check out this wood frog on the Griffon conservation easement! Did you know wood frogs can survive being frozen? They produce a natural “antifreeze” called glucose in their bodies, which prevents ice crystals from forming inside their cells.*



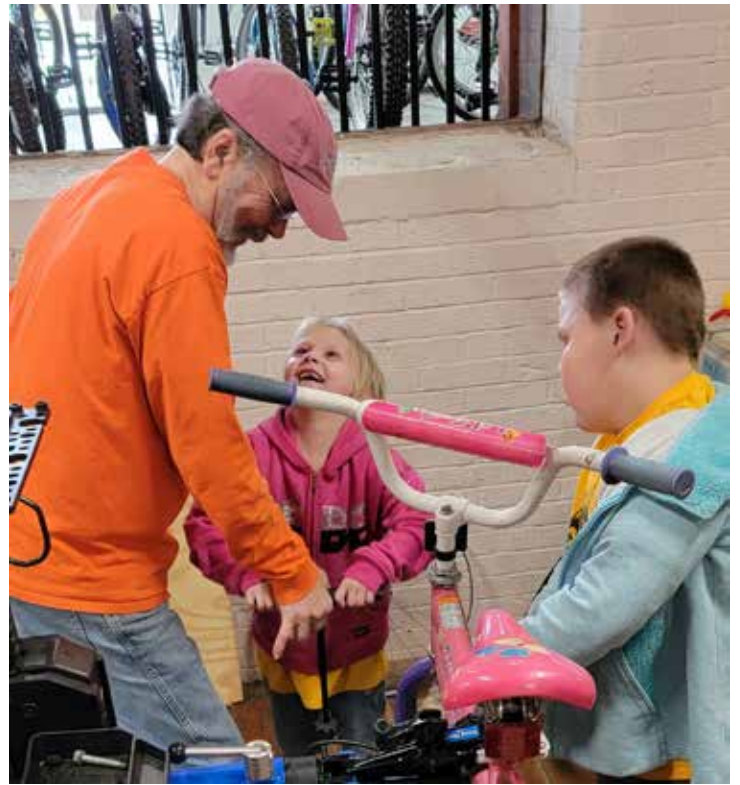
*While wrapping up last year’s site visits, Sara and Holly enjoyed catching up with longtime NPC members and landowners, James and Anne Meyer. The Meyers, along with the other owners, worked with NPC in 2002 to establish the Morgan Valley Road conservation easement. Nestled in a high-elevation valley on Bald Eagle Mountain, this easement conserves woodlands, open fields, wildlife habitat, and scenic views. Partners like the Meyers, along with your support, are conserving these special places!*

## **NPC Helps Bicycle Riders Get Ready to Roll**

As the days get longer, and the weather warms up, it’s the perfect time to get your bike ready for the season. We’re excited to share that NPC is partnering again with Williamsport Bicycle Recycle to offer a **FREE Bicycle Tune-up Workshop on April 19 from 1pm to 3pm at the Pajama Factory**. *Registration is required. Contact the office or visit [npcweb.org/news-and-events](http://npcweb.org/news-and-events) for details.*

This hands-on workshop will help make sure your bike is in top shape, whether you’re a seasoned rider or just getting started.

After your bike is tuned up, you’ll be all set to explore places like the beautiful Pine Creek Rail Trail! Discover access points along the way like Tomb Flats and Cavanaugh Access, made possible by NPC members.



*NPC Board Member, Steve Young, helps a pair of young riders at last year’s Bicycle Tune-up Workshop.*

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## IN HONOR OF

*In honor of  
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Oren Helbok & Sara Baker

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**Northcentral  
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# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Additional details will be available at [npcweb.org](http://npcweb.org), the NPC facebook page, and through email updates.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

- **March 21** – Celebrity Waiter Night at the Peter Herdic House, Williamsport
- **April 19** – Bicycle Tune-up Workshop, Bicycle Recycle, Williamsport
- **April 27** – Intro to Fly Fishing Workshop, with PA Fish & Boat Commission, Montour Preserve
- **June 21** – Family Fishing Day with PA Fish & Boat Commission, Rose Valley Lake
- **June 29** – NPC’s Annual Membership Meeting
- **July 20** – Forest Bathing Workshop, in partnership with the Loyalsock Foundation



*NPC’s Celebrity Waiter Night is just around the corner on March 21! Don’t miss out – call the Peter Herdic House at (570) 322-0165 to reserve your table today!*

### Special Thanks to this year’s Celebrity Waiters!

- Jordan Sheffer
- Susan Durrwachter
- Peachie O’Connor
- Dr. Zachary Ritter
- Dr. Michael Reed
- Tony Nardi
- Mark Shuman
- Rick Mason
- Patty Confer