

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Conserving and enhancing the lands and waters of Northcentral PA



Spring 2025

Laning Creek Conservation Easement, Bradford County

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

Conservation Stories Because of You:

- Planning for Healthy Forests
- Helping the “Stream Team” and the “Lake Guys”
- Stewardship on Properties You Helped Conserve

Planning for Healthy Forests

People often think that if a forest is green, it must be healthy. However, that's not always true. Forests in Pennsylvania have been shaped by human activity for hundreds of years. Clear-cutting during the lumber era, as well as pests like the emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid, have all had lasting impacts. Today, creating and keeping a healthy forest often means the landowner needs to take action. A trained forester can help by creating a plan to improve forest health and guiding the landowner through the process.

In 2024 NPC was awarded grant funding from WeConservePA to develop forest management plans (FMP) on 9 of our conservation easements. Some of these easement owners have already begun implementing their plans.



Dickey Farm Conservation Easement, Clinton County

The **Dickey Farm Conservation Easement** owner has always wanted to improve the land for wildlife. After attending forestry conferences, she realized she needed expert help. Her forester connected with Dr. Jeff Larkin at IUP, whose team saw the property's plan as a good fit for their Oak Management Project. They'll help fund the FMP's recommendations as part of their study.

The Laning Creek Conservation Easement includes longtime family land and newer additions. Although timber was harvested decades ago, the property never had an FMP until now. During a survey, the forester found a healthy, mature ash tree among many killed by emerald ash borer. Experts collected samples from the tree for research. With the FMP in place, the landowners began applying for cost-share support. In fall 2024, the first treatment to control invasive 'tree of heaven' was completed.



Laning Creek Conservation Easement, Bradford County

New owners took over the **Bednar Conservation Easement** in 2023 and were eager to improve forest health and wildlife habitat. One of the goals for their FMP is to create different types of habitats for wildlife. They hired a forester who has prepared a timber harvest plan and will oversee a timber salvage harvest. The owners have also set up three areas that provide food and shelter for pollinators, migratory birds, and other native animals.



Bednar Conservation Easement, Tioga County

You're Helping the "Stream Team" and the "Lake Guys"

The Northcentral Stream Partnership a.k.a. 'Stream Team' is already at work for the 2025 construction season. The first project or two are opportunities to test equipment, break in new waders, and remember the "groove" of a project.

This year, the first project honors went to a site on Turtle Creek in Union County. The landowner has been patiently waiting for nearly 5 years. Their property was a control site for a sediment study U.S. Geological Survey was working on.

The crew from Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Union County Conservation District are installing log and rock structures and providing the stream with access to its floodplain.

Over the next several months streams in Lycoming, Clinton, Tioga, Snyder, Columbia, Northumberland, and Montour will also have projects on them.

Because of your support and help with the stream work, the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy is now also working with the "Lake Guys" to stabilize eroding shoreline at FJ Sayers Reservoir in Bald Eagle State Park.

They are already underway with this year's project (it may be fully wrapped up by the time you receive this in your mailbox)!



Ice anglers at F.J. Sayers Reservoir enjoyed improved access and habitat thanks to shoreline enhancements YOU helped make possible.



The 2025 'stream season' kicks off at project site on Turtle Creek in Union County.



Renee started the new year with a group hike at NPC's Coal Creek property! Check out page 7 for details on more upcoming events highlighting Coal Creek and the Tioga River restoration. Photos by Christina Steinbacher.



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**Northcentral
Pennsylvania
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* Guests were able to donate in several ways throughout Celebrity Waiter. While we do not have a complete list of those who gave via credit card as part of their dining bill, please know your generosity is truly appreciated!

Stewardship on Properties You Helped Conserve

You often help buy properties that become managed by state agencies for natural resources, ecosystem services, and recreation. We have two recent examples of the Bureau of Forestry's stewardship efforts on properties you helped become part of the state forest system.

Prescribed Fire at Cavanaugh Access Area

Management often means removing or reducing the invasive plant species on a property to allow native vegetation to thrive. In March the Bureau of Forestry and their trained staff conducted a prescribed fire at the Cavanaugh Access Area in the Marsh Creek section of the Pine Creek Rail Trail (parallel to Route 6 outside of Wellsboro).

A prescribed fire, or controlled burn, is an important tool used to:

- ◆ Control invasive species
- ◆ Encourage the growth of young trees
- ◆ Restore native plants
- ◆ Reduce wildfire risk

If you're in the area stop by and pay attention to what the vegetation in the burned area looks like compared to neighboring areas that weren't part of the burn.



A prescribed fire at the Cavanaugh Access Area helps control invasive species and support native plant restoration along the Pine Creek Rail Trail. Photo by Nancy McCaughey.



Construction is underway at Tomb Flats to improve stream access and create an ADA-accessible fishing area along Pine Creek.

Improving Access at Tomb Flats

The other example of stewardship is at Tomb Flats. Back in the early 2000s you helped acquire this property along Pine Creek and the Pine Creek Rail Trail. It's become a popular spot to get on or off the Creek and to hop on or off the Trail.

Because of that use, the Bureau of Forestry is taking steps to create a stable access point to the stream as well as a fishing area that is ADA accessible.

Having a stable area for people to use will help reduce the potential for erosion and decrease the amount of dirt and mud entering the stream because of people accessing the stream.

The Bureau of Forestry will also be planting trees. Over time, the tree roots will help add stabilization, the tree canopies will provide shade to keep the water cooler in the summer, and the tree leaves will provide food for the aquatic insects that live in the stream and are food for the fish.

Thank you for helping to conserve these properties!



Celebrity Waiters (pictured L to R, starting in the back row): Rick Mason, Jordan Sheffer, Dr. Michael Reed, Patty Confer, Dr. Zach Ritter, Peachie O'Connor. Photo by Rick Mason.

Celebrity Waiter Night Serves Up Success

A big THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's Celebrity Waiter Night so special— our amazing guests, the wonderful staff at the Peter Herdic House, and our awesome Celebrity Waiters!

Together, you helped raise over \$8,000 for local conservation—what an incredible impact!

We also want to give a special shoutout to Equinox and Itty Bitty Blazes for donating raffle baskets, and to Rick Mason for taking photos during the event.

Check out the photo album now on NPC's Facebook page!

And a very special thanks, again, to this year's Celebrity Waiters:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ◆ Patty Confer | ◆ Dr. Michael Reed |
| ◆ Susan Durrwachter | ◆ Dr. Zach Ritter |
| ◆ Rick Mason | ◆ Jordan Sheffer |
| ◆ Tony Nardi | ◆ Mark Shuman |
| ◆ Peachie O'Connor | |

Growing Together at NPC's Seed Sowing Workshop

In January, NPC welcomed guests to the office for a Seed Sowing Workshop, where participants learned how to start native plants using the winter sowing method.

NPC Board Member Lisa Strouse led the event, sharing her expertise on the benefits of working with native seeds and guiding attendees through the process.

Each participant left with their own seed container, ready to sprout when warmer days arrive. By using this simple yet effective method, attendees are helping to support native plant growth and biodiversity in their own backyards.

Thank you to our members for making events like this possible! Your support creates opportunities for our community to learn and grow together.



Lisa (left) helps Lyn (right) decide which seeds to start at NPC's Seed Sowing Workshop.

Rivers, Coal & Crafts: Exploring the Past, Celebrating the Future

Blossburg's rich coal mining history and the ongoing restoration of the Tioga River are coming together in *Rivers, Coal & Crafts*, an exciting series of community events launching this spring. Through hands-on workshops, creative projects, and storytelling, this series invites residents and visitors to reflect on the town's industrial past while embracing the Tioga River's restoration.

For decades, the Tioga River has been impacted by Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) flowing into it from Fall Brook, Morris Run, and Coal Creek. Water in the former coal mines absorbs heavy metals and iron before flowing into the Tioga River.

NPC became involved in the restoration efforts by purchasing the 'Coal Creek' property, that provides access to the largest mine discharge in the Tioga River watershed. As the restoration progresses, the *Rivers, Coal & Crafts* series will provide an opportunity to update the community about the project (*see the calendar of events on the back cover*).

THANK YOU for helping to create these opportunities and restore the health of the Tioga River!

Meet Gnolli the Tioga River Gnome

At our first River, Coal & Crafts event, creativity met conservation during a special make-a-long. Participants used mini-skeins dyed to tell the story of the Tioga River and its restoration – knitting and crocheting their very own Tioga River Gnomes while learning about the river's past and its ongoing recovery.

One generous attendee, Donna Lougher, chose to gift their gnome to NPC—and that's how Gnolli came to be!

Now, Gnolli is embarking on a new role as the official mascot of the River, Coal & Crafts series. He'll be traveling to events and restoration sites throughout the year, helping share the story of Coal Creek and the Tioga River!



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TIOGA COUNTY



CONSERVATION
DISTRICT



These events are made possible through funding from:

- ♦ Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- ♦ Jones Foundation
- ♦ Friends of the Blossburg Memorial Library



Gnolli the Tioga River Gnome enjoys the view along Coal Creek. He was made during the first Rivers, Coal & Crafts event at the Blossburg Company Store.



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!

- **June 12** – Urban Sketch Workshop, Blossburg (*Rivers, Coal & Crafts*)
- **June 21** – Family Fishing Day with PA Fish & Boat Commission, Rose Valley Lake
- **June 20-22** – Paddle Happy, West Branch Susquehanna
- **June 25** – Cookie Mining, Blossburg (*Rivers, Coal & Crafts*)
- **June 29** – NPC's Annual Membership Meeting
- **June 30** – Water Quilt Part 1, Blossburg (*Rivers, Coal & Crafts*)
- **July 20** – Forest Bathing Workshop, in partnership with the Loyalsock Foundation
- **July 28** – Water Quilt Part 2, Blossburg (*Rivers, Coal & Crafts*)
- **September 28** – Songs Celebrating Coal Miners, Blossburg (*Rivers, Coal & Crafts*)



Save the date for the return of Family Fishing Day at Rose Valley Lake with NPC and the PFBC on June 21st!