

Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

Conserving and enhancing the lands and waters of Northcentral PA



Summer 2025

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

Conservation Stories Because of You:

- Forest Conservation Continues with Edelwald Conservation Easement (cover photo)
- Your Support Keeps the Northcentral Stream Partnership Moving
- NPC Expands Capacity and Commitment to Conservation Easement Program
- Shoring Up Shorelines at Bald Eagle State Park

Forest Conservation Continues with Edelwald Conservation Easement

This spring, NPC worked with landowners Jim and Cheryl Redmond to complete a conservation easement on their 109-acre property in Lycoming County. For nearly 40 years, Jim and Cheryl have cared for this land with the goal of conserving it for the future. They first contacted NPC more than a decade ago, and in early 2024, when they began making long-term plans, they returned knowing NPC would be a reliable partner.



“The Edelwald Conservation Easement is important, not just because of its size or where it’s located, but because it connects key stretches of forest. Conserving land like this helps wildlife move freely and helps keep our waters healthy.” - Sara Schlesinger, NPC Land Steward.

A “Noble Forest” on the Slopes of Batys Mountain

The Redmonds affectionately named their property Edelwald, which means “noble forest” in German. It’s a name that fits well. The land sits on the south side of Batys Mountain and is home to a healthy mix of oak, hickory, and maple trees, along with patches of Eastern hemlock and white pine. Two open fields are maintained as meadows, offering space for wild turkeys, ground nesting birds, and other wildlife. A small stream, Dubois Hollow Run, begins on the property and flows into Lycoming Creek, before it joins the West Branch Susquehanna River.

Member Support Adds to a Growing Conservation Landscape

This property adds to a growing network of conserved lands in the region. It borders State Game Lands 133 and is close to Loyalsock State Forest and several other properties you have helped conserve. With its forested slopes visible from Rose Valley Road, Edelwald is a quiet but powerful reminder of the value of conserving land.

Projects like this happen because of you. Your membership supports long-term partnerships and helps conserve the forests, streams, and land that define our region.

Thank you for making conservation possible.

Your Support Keeps the Northcentral Stream Partnership Moving

Even with all the rain in May, your support helped stream improvement projects move forward across our region.

Thanks to you, the Northcentral Stream Partnership was able to continue its work to improve water quality in streams throughout Union, Montour, Lycoming, Tioga, Northumberland, and Columbia Counties.

One farmer, who had been hoping to work with the partnership since 2014, finally saw progress this spring. He waited patiently while sites above him and below him were addressed first to allow those landowners to proceed with other projects. In addition to coordinating those projects, the team also needed time to get agreement from the landowner on the other side of the stream.

One of the tricky things with the stream projects is to get the timing right. The streambank work often is one piece of a larger project. Timing the crossing work, the barnyard work, planting crops, installing stream crossings or fencing, or just site conditions is often challenging. On top of all the reasons already listed, there's also getting on the contractors' schedules.

Your support provides funding flexibility, which helps a lot when coordinating these complex timelines.



This is the landowner who waited more than 10 years for the stream project on his property to begin. While we don't have a perfect before-and-after photo from the same angle, you can use the barn as a reference point. Before the project, the streambank was 3 to 4 feet high and steep. Now, it has been gently sloped to allow high water to rise, spread out, and slow down.



Somedays, you get to watch the sunrise over the stream. This is part of Turtle Creek in Union County. It's pretty far up in the headwaters and is one of the last sites in this stretch of the watershed.



This streambank stabilization site on Warrior Run also received a tree planting, with trees provided by PPL. The Northumberland County Conservation District, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and NPC supplied the muscle.



DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS • April 1 to June 30, 2025

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2025 CELEBRITY WAITER NIGHT

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2025 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Painterland Sisters

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Martin & Debra Ann Zukovich



Roy Siefert explores NPC's Coal Creek property in Blossburg

Remembering Roy

Roy Siefert passed away in April, and his death is a profound loss for the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Roy earned his B.S. in Forest Science from Penn State's University Park campus in 1976. After joining the Bureau of Forestry, he made his home in northcentral Pennsylvania. He moved to the Tioga State Forest and became District Forester in 1999.

Over the next 15 to 16 years, Roy helped oversee the construction of the Pine Creek Rail Trail's northern and Marsh Creek sections. He retired in 2015.

After retirement, Roy joined the board of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy. He was quick to help in any way he could. He was willing to direct traffic at events, sweep out picnic pavilions before a dinner, tromp along as we checked boundaries, update members on projects in their area, and serve as a sounding board.

Roy's role with the Coal Creek project cannot be understated. His involvement in the Tioga River restoration spanned more than 20 years. He knew the key players and helped build strong connections through many introductions.

His perspective, voice, and knowledge will be deeply missed.

A Musical Finale in Coal Country

Songs Celebrating Coal Miners of PA

September 28 at 2PM • Victoria Theatre, Blossburg

This spring and summer, NPC has been leading the *Rivers, Coal and Crafts* series. This series of hands-on events in Blossburg has been highlighting the area's coal mining history, the impact abandoned mine drainage, or AMD, has had on Tioga River, and how NPC and our partners are working together to make it healthy again.

The series wraps up this fall with Van Wagner in *Songs Celebrating Coal Miners of PA*. This free concert will on Sunday, September 28 at the Victoria Theatre on Blossburg's Main Street.

We are excited to welcome Van Wagner to the stage. As a folk musician, educator, and former coal miner his songs and stories will honor the miners who shaped this region.

As a member of NPC, you are part of this story. Your support is helping make the Tioga River restoration a reality. Because of you, NPC's Coal Creek property will provide access to treat two abandoned mine discharges. Together, we are helping communities reconnect with their rivers and with the history that flows through them.



NPC will host a FREE concert in Blossburg on September 28, featuring Danville musician Van Wagner.

NPC Expands Capacity and Commitment to Conservation Easement Program

NPC's conservation easement program continues to expand. With growth comes the long-term responsibility of looking out for the lands you've helped conserve.

That's why we were thrilled to welcome Jesse Walker as NPC's second Land Steward!

Every conservation easement represents a lasting partnership with a landowner, and a permanent promise from NPC to uphold the terms of that agreement. Stewardship is at the heart of that promise. With your support, NPC is building the capacity to meet this responsibility with care and consistency, year after year.

Jesse is already playing a key role in visiting these special places and ensuring they are monitored and cared for in line with each easement's terms.

Jesse is a graduate of Pennsylvania College of Technology's Forest Technology Program. During college, he gained hands-on experience through internships focused on forest stewardship, trail maintenance, and road work. He then spent a few years working as a forest technician on the Michaux State Forest before making his way back to the region.

When he's not working in the woods, you'll probably still find him outside, hunting, fishing, and enjoying all that northcentral Pennsylvania has to offer.



While dog-day cicadas appear every summer, the real buzz this year was about Brood XIV. These periodical cicadas emerge only once every 17 years! Sara snapped a few pictures of the Brood at the Dickey Farm Conservation Easement, Clinton County.



Jesse tags a hazard tree during a visit to the Knob Mountain Conservation Easement in Columbia County.



Jesse and Sara also take time to inspire a love of nature in our local communities. Here they are at Sullivan County Elementary School's 5th Grade Environmental Day.

Shoring Up Shorelines at Bald Eagle State Park

Over the past few years, you have been helping NPC work with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's "Lake Guys" to improve the shoreline at F.J. Sayers Reservoir in Bald Eagle State Park. Together, we're making it easier for families and anglers to enjoy fishing and access the water, while also creating better habitat for fish and other wildlife.

For this year's project, crews built stone structures called sawtooth and stone-framed deflectors along a section of shoreline at the reservoir. These structures help stop erosion caused by wind and waves and rebuild the shoreline.

Later this fall, habitat structures will be added that provide the fish cover and aquatic insects a place to call home.

From Eroded Banks to Safe, Stable Shores

Erosion adds dirt and nutrients to the reservoir's water, which can harm fish and plants. As the shoreline erodes it can also be harder for people

to safely get to the water for fishing. At this year's project site, the erosion had created banks that were 2-feet to 4-feet high, instead of sloping down into the water. The new stone structures help keep the shoreline stable and improve the health of the water in the reservoir.

Thanks to this work, fish now have better water to live in and more habitat, and families and anglers have safer access to catch those happy fish.

Collaborative Efforts, Lasting Results

This project was made possible through the collaboration and funding of several partners, including Beyond the Pond, Bass Pro Shops, Bald Eagle State Park, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the reservoir for flood control.

Thanks to your ongoing support, these partnerships will continue to conserve and improve F.J. Sayers Reservoir for years to come.



Eroding shoreline at F.J. Sayers Reservoir



Stone framed deflectors help stabilize the shoreline and prevent further erosion.



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.

- **July 20** – Forest Therapy Walk, in partnership with the Loyalsock Foundation, Sullivan County
- **July 26** – Susquehanna Valley Watershed Festival, Catawissa
- **July 28** – Water Quilt Part 2, Blossburg (*Rivers, Coal & Crafts*)
- **August 2** – Susquehanna Greenway Outdoor Expo, Sunbury
- **September 28** – Songs Celebrating Coal Miners featuring Van Wagner, Blossburg (*Rivers, Coal & Crafts*)
- **October 19** – Keystone Hiking & Outdoor Weekend: Hike Coal Creek, Blossburg



Urban Sketch Workshop, Blossburg



Intro to Fly Fishing, Danville



Magical Macros at EMC, Sullivan County