

NEWSLETTER

THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Photo Credit: Mao Lin

In this issue:

MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT

CHAPTER UPDATES

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

- AWARDS
- ELECTIONS

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

UPCOMING MEETINGS &
TRAININGS

MOST POPULAR TWS
JOURNAL PAPERS OF 2020

WHOS WHO IN THE NE

A message from the president

Hello Northeast Section Members!

Happy 2022! I don't know about you, but I am hoping for a better year compared to the past few, pandemic-riddled loops around the sun, especially when in the final days of 2021 we lost the iconic Betty White. Many of you probably share the same love that I have for this woman, but being involved in wildlife, I think we can all connect with a few of her sentiments on a different level. Betty was an avid animal lover and advocate. She hosted a TV show called "The Pet Set," in the 1970s, supported the American Humane society, was an honorary zookeeper for the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, participated in Guide Dogs for the Blind, in addition to many other animal-centric roles. While her primary focus was in domestic species, her appreciation transcended to all animals. I think we can all learn from her, regarding the wildlife field as well as just being human and take her endless optimism into this new year and into this field.

Message from the president continued...

So to give you a few quotes straight from Betty to jumpstart or renew our shared passion for domestic and wild animals:

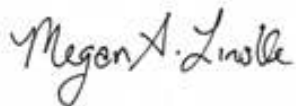
"You can always tell somebody by the way they put their hands on an animal."

"Everybody needs a passion. That's what keeps life interesting. If you live without passion, you can go through life without leaving any footprints."

"I just don't know how I would have lived without animals around me. I'm fascinated by them – both domestic pets and the wild community. They just are the most interesting things in the world to me, and it's made such a difference in my lifetime."

"All creatures must learn to coexist. That's why the brown bear and the field mouse can share their lives in harmony. Of course, they can't mate or the mice would explode."

On that note, let's all be a little more like Betty this year: find your passion, be kind, and always keep your sense of humor.



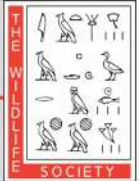
Megan A. Linske, Ph.D.
President, Northeast Section



Photo Credit: Mao Lin

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Sign up [here](#) for our free, monthly edition of the *eWildlifer* — your one-stop shop for the latest wildlife news, Section and Chapter updates, TWS announcements, and more.



Chapter Updates

New York Chapter

Save The Date!

New York Chapter of the Wildlife Society
2022 Annual Meeting

"Invasive Species and their Effects on NY Wildlife
and their Habitats"

March 3-4, 2022

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Binghamton, NY
Stay tuned, registration will be open soon!

Interested in hearing more from TWS...

Sign up [here](#) for our free, monthly edition of the *eWildlifer* — your one-stop shop for the latest wildlife news, Section and Chapter updates, TWS announcements, and more.



Award Nominations



Call for nominations: *TWS Northeast Section Awards*

Help us honor the work of our fellow biologists—nominate a colleague or student. Nominations are due **February 15**.

The John Pearce Memorial Award

The PF English Memorial Award

Certificates of Recognition

<https://wildlife.org/ne-section/about/awards>

Awards will be announced at the 77th NEAFWA Conference

Long Branch, New Jersey April 2022

Send nomination material to Budd Veverka nytws.president@gmail.com

The John Pearce Memorial Award

The John Pearce Memorial Award is awarded by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to Society members in the Northeast for outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation in the Northeast. The basic criteria for judging professional accomplishment of nominees is (1) a contribution of knowledge and (2) leadership over a period of several years in any areas of wildlife work, including research, management, administration, or education – as evidence by publications, skillful development, and/or application of effective management or educational programs or methods. Any member of The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society may nominate someone to be considered by the Awards Committee. The award may be made to an individual, or to multiple individuals who have worked together for several years. Nominations should be sent to the Awards Chair Budd Veverka at NYTWS.President@gmail.com.

The P.F. English Memorial Award

The P.F. English Memorial Award is presented annually by the Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society to the outstanding undergraduate senior student of wildlife biology or wildlife management within the region. Its purpose is to acknowledge and to encourage students, and to perpetuate the name of the late P.F. English, an outstanding educator, sportsman, and inspiration to youth. Students must be seniors and must be enrolled in a wildlife biology or wildlife management curriculum including forest science programs with a major in wildlife. The student must show evidence of promise and/or achievement in scholarship, work experience and professional activities. Nominations should be sent to the Awards Chair Budd Veverka at NYTWS.President@gmail.com.

Award Nominations

Certificates of Recognition

Certificates of Recognition may be awarded to people in any area of work, professional or non-professional, who have made noteworthy contributions to knowledge about wildlife or wildlife management, furthered public understanding, or who have made available increased wildlife habitat through modification of land use practices (e.g., agriculture, highways, forestry). Any member of the Northeast Section may recommend recipients of the Certificate of Recognition. The Awards Committee will observe high standards in judging contributions. Therefore, a significant advance in techniques in wildlife conservation, in public acceptance, in areas of habitat for wildlife, or in some other facet within our field or interest should be demonstrated. The contribution need not have occurred in the year immediately preceding the recommendation. However, timely recognition is obviously desirable. Nominations should be sent to the Awards Chair Budd Veverka at NYTWS.President@gmail.com.

NEAFWA Registration Grant

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce we will be offering a student registration award of \$200 to a student attending the 77th NEAFWA conference in Long Branch, New Jersey. Eligible students are graduates or undergraduates in wildlife or a related field who have had a paper or poster accepted for presentation at NEAFWA for the current year. Applicants are to submit the application, a cover letter that includes the importance of this paper or poster to wildlife management and their abstract. All documents should be submitted as attachments to one email sent to the Awards Committee at NYTWS.President@gmail.com.

For more background and information on the John Pearce and P.F. English Memorial Awards, please visit: <https://wildlife.org/ne-section/about/awards/>



Photo Credit: Mao Lin

Northeast Section TWS - Call for Nominations

The Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society is seeking individuals for the following Officer Positions for the Executive Board of the Section.

PRESIDENT-ELECT— The President-elect shall be elected by Voting Members to serve during the second year of the President's term and shall assume duties of the President in the latter's absence or inability to serve, assist the President in all phases of Section administration, and perform any duties assigned by the President. Should the President-Elect be unable to serve as the President for any reason, the Executive Committee shall appoint a President pro tempore. The President-Elect shall also serve on the Operations Committee to gain a greater understanding of Section bylaws and to solicit future candidates for office and may also serve as the liaison to the Northeast Fish & Wildlife Conference (NEFWC) Planning Committee.

SECRETARY – The Secretary shall issue notices of the annual meeting and of all proposed amendments to the Bylaws, record the minutes of the annual meeting and distribute them to the membership within 90 days of such meeting, keep the minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee, maintain the membership rolls, conduct general correspondence and act as custodian of the Section's records. A report covering his or her activities of the previous year shall be made by the Secretary to the Section at its annual meeting. The Secretary shall submit to the Executive Director of The Wildlife Society and to the Section Representative an annual report, financial statement, record of elections, position statements, resolutions, and other official action of the Section within twenty days thereof. The Secretary shall maintain a Section file containing: Bylaws of The Wildlife Society and of the Section; minutes of all annual and special meetings of the membership, and of the Executive Committee; correspondence pertinent to Section affairs, all committee reports, financial statements and records; a current roster and directory of all committee members; and all other material designated as pertinent by the Executive Committee. An up-to-date "procedure for filing" shall be kept in the Section file for the guidance of each succeeding Secretary.

TREASURER (one year term) - The Treasurer shall collect membership dues, and be custodian of all funds of the Section. All expenditures other than for postage and stationery must be approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall submit the records covering the period of the previous calendar year to audit within 60 days of the annual meeting and shall submit an annual report of the financial status of the Section at the annual meeting. In January of each year a statement of calendar year incomes and expenses, starting and ending balances, must be submitted to the Executive Director of The Wildlife Society for federal tax reporting. The Treasurer need not be bonded.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Members at Large serve in a non-voting, advisory role on the Executive Committee.

Nominations are due February 11th, 2022

Contact Tim Green at tgreen@bnl.gov

Member Spotlight with Laken Ganoë

Please give us a bit about your background, your current role, and how long you have been a member of the Northeast Wildlife Society.

I am originally from Pennsylvania where I completed my B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at California University of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2017. I became involved in TWS in 2014 through our Student Chapter and have been a member of the Northeast Wildlife Society going on 7 years now. After graduating undergrad, I immediately transitioned into a M.S. program at Penn State working on muskrat population health and movement ecology. I completed my M.S. degree in 2019 and was fortunate to secure my dream PhD position studying fisher in Dr. Brian Gerber's Quantitative Ecology Lab at the University of Rhode Island.



What made you decide to get into the wildlife profession?

I am extremely fortunate to have known that I've wanted to work with wildlife since a very young age. I grew up in rural Pennsylvania in a very outdoor oriented family, and I really have my parents and grandpa to thank for fostering my interest in wildlife ecology. Whether we were out hunting, hiking, or just watching the birds on the bird feeder, wildlife was a core component of a lot of conversation growing up. From casual comments of "oh, the Baltimore orioles are a little early this year" to "come over and try and help me figure out what animal left this scat", it helped mold me into the biologist I am today. I always found a comfort in those conversations and a connection to both the constant patterns and slight shifts in nature. Getting into the wildlife profession just came very naturally thanks to the way I was raised.

Member Spotlight continued...



What is the best part of your job?

I feel like the most obvious answer is being able to handle and track an animal, because that's one of the main reasons a lot of people get super pumped about wildlife research, right?! In true wildlife research fashion, it's probably the one of the briefest components of my job. I think the best part of my job is just being able to study, up close, a species I've always been fascinated by and to help others gain an appreciation for fisher. They are an extremely misunderstood and underappreciated species in the eyes of the public, so any opportunities I have to not only further our (RIDEM, myself, and other scientists) understanding of the species while helping the public learn a little about them is extremely rewarding.

Tell us a little bit about your current projects.

Currently, I am working on my PhD project studying resource selection, landscape-scale movement, and demographics of the fisher population in Rhode Island. We've been calling the project the Rhode Island Fisher Study, and it's a collaborative effort between the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the University of Rhode Island. The project involves a state-wide camera survey that is piggybacking on a previous camera survey led by Amy Mayer to study bobcats in the state. We have increased the number of sites to get a better understanding of distribution and resource selection. Additionally, we are live-trapping and collaring individual fisher to collect fine-scale movement and activity data. Since fisher naturally recolonized the state, it'll be super fascinating to see how these big weasels are able to thrive in Rhode Island, even though it is the second-most densely populated state!

Member Spotlight continued...

What advice would you give to early-career wildlife professionals?

Embrace all aspects of the job. We often glorify and get caught up on the joys of handling animals or the end result of a study, that it can make the rest (honestly the bulk) of the job feel dreary and unappealing. You really have to take the mundane with the exciting, it's just the nature of it. Find the small highlights of each aspect of your position and keep them in mind. You'll have days where you're getting soaking wet in the field wishing you were sitting getting caught up on data management, and you'll have days meticulously tagging photos where you'll wish you were out doing fieldwork. It's all a balance, but that's easier said than done! Don't be afraid to give yourself a break every now and then to recharge. A lot of early career biologists (myself included!) get in a cycle of wanting to do everything, volunteer on all kinds of projects, and we work really hard because the animals don't care what day of week it is or what the weather is like. It's okay to take an afternoon to enjoy the sunshine, or a day to just sit still and not use your brain for a bit. It'll help you come back and do the work more efficiently later.

What is your favorite story to tell regarding your work?

Hmmm...my favorite story regarding my current work would have to be about one of the adult females we caught last season, Toph (F11). She was the oldest female we caught, she was pregnant with 3 kits, and she was blind in her left eye. After we work up a fisher, we let them recover from the chemical immobilization in a dog kennel with lots of blankets. Almost all the fisher will explore the kennel and test for an escape route and then will settle down and hide under the blankets. However, Toph sat up and looked out the side actively listening to us while we were cleaning up the processing station. When we got a little to close to the kennel for her comfort, she would curl up in the corner with her blind spot against the side of the kennel not moving her head but with her ears on a swivel. It was really fascinating to see how she's adapted her behavior to deal with having a blind spot. She then got comfortable with us and curled her tail up around herself and put her little head down on it. She had such a cool personality, and we were later able to find her den and walk in on her up in another tree. She successfully raised three kits that season and we actually got video of her bringing them down out of the den tree for the first time, which was quite amazing!

Diversity Spotlight: Looking at Constituency Barriers to Recreational Fishing in Pennsylvania's Most Urban Setting

By: Tammy Colt

“Growing up in Portage, Pennsylvania, diversity to us meant that the people on this block went to the Polish Catholic Church, on the next block they went to the Roman Catholic Church, and on the next, the Irish Catholic Church.” I will never forget Carl Richardson explaining this to a group of teachers from across our state during a PA Amphibians and Reptiles Curriculum workshop that he and I facilitated, way back in 2001. Being from the nearby town of Ligonier, I could relate. How ironic that as I looked into a recent study of “R3” (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation) barriers related to recreational fishing in the Philadelphia area, it turned out that my good friend, Carl, was the project leader. He shared the project results with me and was game to answer a few questions about it.

The five-county Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Area is PA’s most densely populated area, as well as our most ethnically diverse, with over half of PA’s minorities living within it. In fact, over 25% of the area’s population is non-white and/or Hispanic. While over 5% of PA’s population participates in angling, only about 2% of Philadelphians do. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) received a Multi-State Conservation Grant from AFWA and USFWS to address barriers identified in the Relevancy Roadmap (See the December 2021 issue of *The Wildlife Professional* to learn more about the Roadmap and these grants.) PFBC worked with Responsive Management to survey residents in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Area about their engagement with aquatic resources, participation and interest in recreational fishing, and their motivation and barriers to participation in recreational fishing.

Diversity Spotlight Continued....

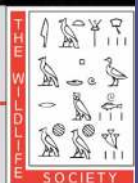
CR: The importance of diversity in biological communities is one of the fundamental principles we learned when studying ecology and related courses. We also learned of the importance for species to adapt to changes to their environment, within certain limits of course. The same is true for human communities.

Growing up, Portage and other nearby communities were nearly completely dependent on the steel industry. When the mills shut down, many people moved out of the area. Local economies and communities suffered. Just as restoring damaged wildlife habitat can be expensive and require many years, some of these communities haven't recovered.

Connection to nature, hunting, fishing, camping was a natural part of growing up there. Same is/was true of most rural areas in Pennsylvania. Most of us were also Boomers, and as a result this generation has been well represented in those communities for the last 30 years. White males also comprise a large portion of the population as well. While the world around us changed, agencies continued to rely on those Boomer males to sustain support for the North American Wildlife Model. Even though white male Boomers may comprise most of the hunting and fishing community, the population around them became younger, more urban, and spent leisure time doing things other than hunting and fishing. Simply put, the community was dependent on one segment to sustain it. As their numbers diminish, so does the capacity of the system to be sustainable. Like growing up in Portage, many agencies viewed 'diversity' narrowly.

Interested in hearing more from TWS...

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Diversity Spotlight Continued....

TC: It's evident from your survey results that many of the respondents consider fishing to be a social or family activity. Family was especially important to Black residents. What were some of the other racial or ethnic differences made evident by this survey?

CR: *A smaller percentage of those who identified as black fished as a child (59%) compared to 80% for those who identify as white. Conversely, interest in going fishing in the next 12 months was slightly more for black respondents (32%) than for white responders (27%). There were more instances where there was no significant difference based on race or ethnicity.*

There were significant differences based on the county of residence. A larger number of Bucks County residents thought the fishing near them was good to excellent (59%) compared to 41% of those residing in Philadelphia County. We also saw some differences between responses based on household income and highest level of education.

TC: I would have guessed that time and money would come in as the main constraints to fishing participation, but these were low on the list. Instead, seeing litter where they fish, limited access to water, and water quality issues ranked high. What steps might be taken to diminish these barriers?

CR: *Lets talk about the water quality issues first. PFBC staff often encounter people who believe the water is so polluted and that fish can't be eaten. Anecdotally we hear it in Pittsburgh and in Philadelphia. For generations, the belief that pollution is widespread has been handed down or reinforced. In this case, the barrier isn't water quality, but THE PERCEPTION of water quality. The latter is addressed by efforts to increase awareness.*

This can be the case with access. Is the question one of perception or is it structural? Not knowing about an access results in the same outcome as if it didn't exist. That's why its important for us to increase awareness of opportunities close to home. Its also important for us to recognize where access is an issue, and work to resolve those issues. Fortunately, we've been able to work with community partners to acquire and build new accesses. The Boating Facilities Grant is one example (<https://www.fishandboat.com/Transact/Grants/Pages/BoatingFacilityGrantProgram.aspx>)

Diversity Spotlight Continued....

TC: What were the most surprising or unexpected things you learned from the survey results?

CR: *I usually go into these open minded, at least as much as possible. We are data driven—right? Whether its data about populations of mammals, birds, or fish, or its people—the approach is the same. What's the data tell us?*

I was pleasantly surprised to see the strong confirmation of the approaches we've been taking and have planned. We applied research conducted on a national or regional level when building our programs. So, it was great to see results that confirmed or served to ground truth in a small area. I know that some at PFBC were also pleasantly surprised to see the large percentage who rated fishing opportunities near them as excellent to good (46%).

TC: How will this information be utilized by PFBC? Are there any new programs or initiatives developing as a result of this project?

CR: *Some of the results confirm that we are on the right path with some of the approaches already in place. For example, we offer Family Fishing Programs, and 60% of respondents with an interest in fishing would participate in a family event. Only 14% said they would be willing to participate in a virtual event. Even smaller percentage (12%) said they would participate in a tournament or competitive event.*

In addition to family-oriented programs, those with a hands-on component and opportunity for social interaction were favored by those with an interest. This describes most of our programs, and those we encourage our partners to deliver.

Other results will be used to shape messaging and creative elements. Emphasizing family, social groups, opportunity to be outside will be key. Also, we will be showing scenes familiar to them with people they can identify with.

TC: If our readers want to learn more about the survey, PFBC's programs focused on urban areas, or R3 initiatives, where can they find more information?

CR: *Our website is a great place to start, www.fishandboat.com. One page in particular focuses on our efforts in Philadelphia, through the Gaun First Catch Center <https://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/GaunFirstCatch/Pages/default.aspx>*

On a national level, the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) has sponsored a great deal of research on this topic.

<https://www.takemefishing.org/corporate/resource-center/> They also have resources

Upcoming Meetings and Trainings

2022 Wildlife Field Course

Presented by Northeast Section of The Wildlife Society, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife and Castleton University

Gain hands on experience trapping small mammals, performing telemetry, using chemical immobilization equipment and more while getting college credit

For more information visit: Northeast Section:

<https://wildlife.org/ne-section/about/student-field-course>

Or contact Dr John McDonald (twsmcdonald@gmail.com)

Save the Date!

77th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference

April 3-5, 2022, New Jersey

For more information visit

<https://www.neafwa.org/conference.html>

Most Popular TWS Journal Papers of 2020

For over 80 years, The Wildlife Society has helped develop, contextualize, and advance the scientific foundation of wildlife management through publication of peer-reviewed studies in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* (1937), *Wildlife Monographs* (1958), and *Wildlife Society Bulletin* (1973). As a leading resource for wildlife managers in the field and a central component of the Society's mission, regularly assessing engagement with TWS journal content helps provide valuable insights about the future of wildlife management in North America and beyond.

Wondering what your fellow wildlifera are reading? Below are the top 15 most downloaded papers published in TWS Journals in 2020 as of March 2021. Members of TWS receive free access to all TWS publications. To take advantage of this exclusive member benefit, simply log into Your Membership and go to the "Publications" tab.



Photo Credit: Mao Lin

Title / Author(s) / Journal

Assessing Nutritional Condition of Mule Deer Using a Photographic Index

Smiley, R.A., Rittenhouse, C.D., Mong, T.W. and Monteith, K.L.
Wildlife Society Bulletin

Best Management Practices for Trapping Furbearers in the United States (open access)

White, H.B., Batcheller, G.R., Boggess, E.K., Brown, C.L., Butfiloski, J.W., Decker, T.A., Erb, J.D., Fall, M.W., Hamilton, D.A., Hiller, T.L., Hubert, G.F., Jr., Lovallo, M.J., Olson, J.F. and Roberts, N.M.
Wildlife Monographs

Effects of Wind Turbine Curtailment on Bird and Bat Fatalities (open access)

Smallwood, K.S. and Bell, D.A.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Dogs Detect Larger Wind Energy Effects on Bats and Birds (open access)

Smallwood, K.S., Bell, D.A. and Standish, S.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Anthropogenic Disturbance and Population Viability of Woodland Caribou in Ontario (open access)

Fryxell, J.M., Avgar, T., Liu, B., Baker, J.A., Rodgers, A.R., Shuter, J., Thompson, I.D., Reid, D.E.B., Kittle, A.M., Mosser, A., Newmaster, S.G., Nudds, T.D., Street, G.M., Brown, G.S. and Patterson, B.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Wolverine Occupancy, Spatial Distribution, and Monitoring Design (open access)

Lukacs, P.M., Evans Mack, D., Inman, R., Gude, J.A., Ivan, J.S., Lanka, R.P., Lewis, J.C., Long, R.A., Sallabanks, R., Walker, Z., Courville, S., Jackson, S., Kahn, R., Schwartz, M.K., Torbit, S.C., Waller, J.S. and Carroll, K.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Ratcheting up Rigor in Wildlife Management Decision Making (open access)

Fuller, A.K., Decker, D.J., Schiavone, M.V. and Forstchen, A.B.
Wildlife Society Bulletin

Boreal Caribou Can Coexist with Natural but Not Industrial Disturbances (open access)

Stewart, F.E.C., Nowak, J.J., Micheletti, T., McIntire, E.J.B., Schmiegelow, F.K.A. and Cumming, S.G.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Are Sage-Grouse Fine-Scale Specialists or Shrub-Steppe Generalists? (open access)

Smith, J.T., Allred, B.W., Boyd, C.S., Carlson, J.C., Davies, K.W., Hagen, C.A., Naugle, D.E., Olsen, A.C. and Tack, J.D.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Preparing Wildlife for Climate Change: How Far Have We Come? (free to read)

LeDee, O.E., Handler, S.D., Hoving, C.L., Swanston, C.W. and Zuckerberg, B.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Computational Reproducibility in The Wildlife Society's Flagship Journals (open access)

Archmiller, A.A., Johnson, A.D., Nolan, J., Edwards, M., Elliott, L.H., Ferguson, J.M., Iannarilli, F., Vélez, J., Vitense, K., Johnson, D.H. and Fieberg, J.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Identifying Birds' Collision Risk with Wind Turbines Using a Multidimensional Utilization Distribution Method (open access)

Khosravifard, S., Skidmore, A.K., Naimi, B., Venus, V., Muñoz, A.R. and Toxopeus, A.G.
Wildlife Society Bulletin

Pandemics and the Need for Automated Systems for Biodiversity Monitoring (free to read)

Sugai, L.S.M.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Widespread Lead Exposure in Golden Eagles Captured in Montana (open access)

Domenech, R., Shreading, A., Ramsey, P. and McTee, M.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Overabundance of Black-Tailed Deer in Urbanized Coastal California

Furnas, B.J., Landers, R.H., Paiste, R.G. and Sacks, B.N.
The Journal of Wildlife Management

Whos Who in the Northeast?

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Member	Emily Boyd	eboyd@pa.gov
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Photo Credit: Mao Lin