

Kettle Creek Watershed Association News

Enhance
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Kettle Creek Watershed, The Keystone 2000 Project

The KCWA is proud to announce that the Kettle Creek Watershed has been selected as the Keystone 2000 Project by Penn State University's Center for Watershed Stewardship. The focus and scope of this Keystone 2000 Project in the Kettle Creek watershed jointly proposed by Kettle Creek Watershed Association and National Trout Unlimited's Home Rivers Initiative is currently under active development. A meeting scheduled in mid-April will explore project goals and seek to identify tasks matched to the skills, experience, and interests of a ten-member student team. Following agreement on the scope of work, timetable, and other details, a STEP (Student Technical Experience Program) agreement would be executed with the University to begin work in the Fall 2000 semester with completion in April 2001.

Students in fisheries science, landscape architecture, forest hydrology and other natural resources disciplines have been participating in this unique graduate studies curriculum since its establishment in 1998 with a major five-year grant from the Heinz Endowment of Pittsburgh. Students pursue diversified elective courses to broaden their individual technical field and, in the second year, are engaged in a team-based watershed planning project for an actual Pennsylvania watershed in cooperation with a watershed association and other community sponsors. The Center's initial Keystone Project is drawing to a close this spring as a five-student team completes its stewardship plan for the Maiden Creek watershed in Berks and Lehigh Counties.

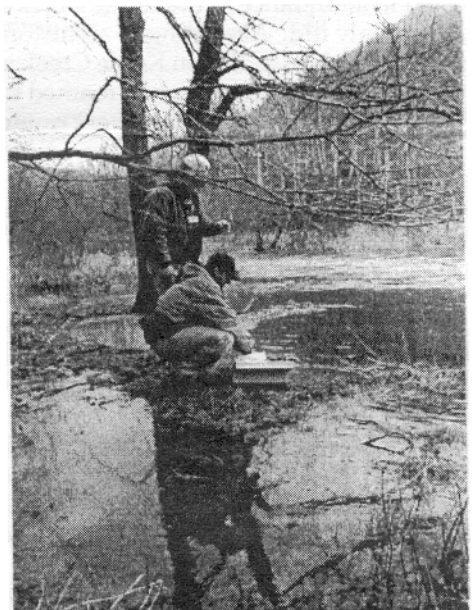
Federation of Fly Fishers Continue to Support KCWA

In June 1999, the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) granted the KCWA \$2000 that helped to fund ongoing stream assessment and educational projects. The KCWA is happy to report that the FFF has decided to continue their support by graciously contributing another \$2000 to fund Kettle Creek watershed projects. The FFF is a national, non-profit organization based out of Livingston, Montana, dedicated to the promotion and conservation of angling resources. The KCWA is grateful for their continued interest and support in the conservation work on the Kettle Creek watershed.

Students and Volunteers Participate in Stream Monitoring Workshop

On Sunday, February 27, the KCWA held a stream monitoring workshop for students of Lock Haven and Mansfield Universities, and local volunteers. This workshop was made possible through educational grants from the PA Association of Conservation Districts, PA Bay Education Office, and the DEP.

Kettle Creek Watershed Coordinator, Amy Gottesfeld, began the workshop with an introduction to the basics of stream monitoring, including a demonstration of sampling techniques and recording data. The fifteen participants were divided into stream teams and spent the rest of the day traveling to pre-established sample sites on Kettle Creek and several of its main tributaries. The stream teams measured alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, water and air temperature, and recorded weather and general habitat observations. The groups sampled a total of twenty-six sites. The sample data collected is an important component of the ongoing monitoring and assessment program of the watershed.



Lock Haven University students Stephanie Blair and Ken Neff take samples on Kettle Creek.

Fish Habitat Advisory Committee Formed

The KCWA decided that in order to be more efficient in the planning and prioritizing of stream improvement projects and to enhance communication and the flow of ideas between all involved parties, it was necessary to organize a Fish Habitat Advisory Committee (FHAC). KCWA Vice-President, Dick Sodergren, is the chair of the committee. The FHAC, comprised of representatives from over eleven partnering local, state, and federal organizations and agencies, including several local residents, held its first meeting at Pleasant Gap in mid-January and the next meeting is scheduled in mid-April. The overall goal of the FHAC is to improve aquatic habitat throughout the watershed.

Currently, the KCWA is seeking "Partners" to assist the FHAC in advancing their long-term goal. A brochure was mailed to all members and distributed throughout the watershed during the first week of April. Partners will be asked to spend a few hours a year to sample water quality, observe stream conditions, and help in riparian restoration in the section of the watershed they "adopt." If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kettle Creek Watershed Coordinator Amy Gottesfeld at agottesfeld@hotmail.com or call FHAC Chair, Dick Sodergren at (570) 923-2431 or (814) 355-9798.

Kettle History Korner

Did you know... that panthers and wolves once existed in abundance in the Kettle Creek valley? Yes, they certainly did. According to an historical account of the first white settler on Kettle Creek in 1814, Simeon Pfouts reported that "wolves roamed through the forests in droves, and panthers were numerous." Then there was Mr. Kelley, an Irishman who was the first settler between the river and Kettle Creek back in 1826-27, who had described that "often would the still hours of night be broken by the fierce howling of wolves and the panther's loud and terrific yells." For more interesting accounts of original Kettle Creek settlers such as these taken from the *History of Clinton County, PA*, it is worth spending some time at the Potter County and Clinton County Historical Societies.

As thrilling as the howls of wolves may once have been, the eerie screams of the panther still echo to this day throughout the valley in the form of both legends and truths. To read more, Robert R. Lyman Sr. has compiled some fascinating stories about the prowl of the panther, and many others, in his *Forbidden Land: Strange Events in the Black Forest* (both Volumes I and II, published by Leader Publishing Co., Coudersport, PA).

Awaiting Results for Growing Greener Project Proposals

The KCWA, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, submitted two project proposals for the first round of Pennsylvania's Growing Greener grant program. The first proposal entitled "Kettle Creek Watershed Restoration: Twomile Run Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Project" requested \$576,000 to continue assessment of Clinton County's Twomile Run AMD problems, and to complete the design of and implement a treatment system in the Twomile Run subwatershed. The KCWA AMD Committee and Trout Unlimited are presently working with Hedin Environmental on the AMD assessment of the Kettle Creek watershed (see picture below).

The second proposal requested a total of \$47,295 for two separate stream habitat improvement projects as designed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist, Dave Putnam, on Kettle Creek in Potter County. The first project is located on property owned by the PA Fish and Boat Commission five miles north of Cross Fork. The second project is located just upstream of the bridge in Oleona. Both sites suffer from active bank erosion and will benefit from the natural stream channel design projects in terms of improved fish habitat, streambank stability, and sediment transport. The results for the Growing Greener proposals are expected to be announced before Saturday, April 22. Let's keep our fingers crossed!



(Left to right) Mike Klimkos/PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Amy Gottesfeld/Kettle Creek Watershed Coordinator, Dean Mertz/KCWA Board, Bob Hedin/Hedin Environmental, and Bob Fetterling/Sprout District Bureau of Forestry are shown investigating mine drainage on the Bitumen-side slopes of Kettle Creek.

Earth Day at Lock Haven University

The Biology Club of Lock Haven University will be hosting an Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 29. Local organizations and businesses involved with various aspects of the environment will share displays and information. The activities will take place throughout the afternoon on the lawn of Russell Hall at Lock Haven University.

Germania Branch Adopt-A-Stream Project

The Adopt-A-Stream Project for the Germania Branch in Abbott Township, Potter County, has been approved by the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). The Habitat Management Section of the PFBC designed the fish habitat improvement plan. Five water jacks with downstream wings will be constructed along a 265-foot section of the Germania Branch that parallels Route 144 in Germania.

The Adopt-A-Stream Program is funded by the PFBC in which they contribute up to \$2000 for

construction materials and provide technical expertise, project designs, and permits. The actual labor, time, and machinery costs are the responsibility of the cooperating organization (KCWA) and volunteers. The project is scheduled for construction on Saturday, July 22. The KCWA is seeking additional helping hands. Please contact Watershed Coordinator, Amy Gottesfeld at agottesfeld@hotmail.com or Dick Sodergren at (570) 923-2431 or (814) 355-9798 if interested in helping.



Potter County Landowner Survey Results

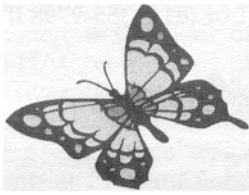
As promised, the results for surveys sent to Kettle Creek watershed landowners in Potter County are shown below. The Clinton County results, as reported in the December newsletter, are shown again for the purpose of comparison. In August 1999, over 2000 surveys were sent out to property owners in the Kettle Creek watershed by the KCWA, and Clinton County and Potter County Conservation Districts. This joint effort was made possible by educational grants from the DEP and Canaan Valley Institute. The Kettle Creek Watershed Handbook is currently being worked on to address concerns and interests as expressed through the surveys. These handbooks will be distributed to all KCWA members and made available to everyone in the watershed.

Overall, the results from Clinton County and Potter County landowners are similar. Some of the minor differences indicated between the surveys most

likely result from the impacts of acid mine drainage (AMD) in the lower portion of the watershed in Clinton County. Unfortunately, AMD limits fishing and other recreational opportunities that would otherwise be available. For instance, watershed landowners in Potter County described water quality conditions from excellent to good, whereas Clinton County respondents indicated a water quality range from only very good to fair. Approximately one-third of the watershed within Clinton County is impaired by AMD. On a better note, nearly half of the watershed in Clinton County (above the Kettle Creek Reservoir) and the rest of the watershed which is located in Potter County, including the headwaters of Kettle Creek in Tioga County, is designated as "Exceptional Value" (see article "Kettle Creek, An Exceptional Value Watershed - What Does This Mean?")

Question	Answer	Potter County %	Clinton County %
<i>How do you use Kettle Creek?</i>	Fishing	93	89
	Hunting	61	56
	Swimming	43	58
<i>How would you describe current water quality of the stream? (rate from excellent to poor)</i>	Good	46	35
	Very Good	23	29
	Excellent	16	--
	Fair	--	20
<i>Has water quality improved or declined over the past few years?</i>	Not Sure	34	26
	Declined	32	38
	Stayed Same	26	22
<i>Do you think it is necessary to establish a water quality monitoring program?</i>	Yes	65	74
	No	26	18
<i>What information should be collected in the monitoring program?</i>	pH	53	60
	Aquatic Insects	50	48
	Sedimentation	49	48
<i>What type of information do you need or want as a watershed user?</i>	Habitat Improvement	36	51
	Monitoring Stream Health	32	42
	Streambank Maintenance	31	42

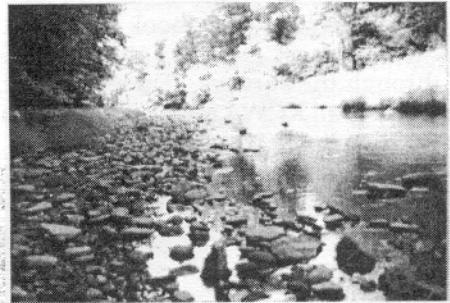
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Kettle Creek, An Exceptional Value Watershed - What Does This Mean?

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania maintains legal documentation on water quality standards for the entire state of Pennsylvania. This is commonly referred to as the "Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards" as reported by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards lists specific water uses to be protected and the water quality criteria that is necessary to protect those uses. Individual streams or entire watersheds are typically classified in terms of aquatic life uses such as warm water fishes, trout-stocking fishes, cold water fishes, or they may be designated for a water supply, recreational use, or navigation. Some waters receive special protection through classification as a high quality or exceptional value water. In the case of nearly three-quarters of the Kettle Creek watershed, beginning at the Kettle Creek Reservoir at Kettle Creek State Park in Clinton County to its headwaters in southwestern Tioga County, it is classified as an exceptional value watershed. (The Kettle Creek Reservoir itself is a high quality trout-stocking fishery and the Kettle Creek basin below the Alvin R. Bush Dam at the reservoir is a trout-stocking fishery. Unfortunately, the last six miles of Kettle Creek and its numerous tributaries are impaired by acid mine drainage.) The Kettle Creek watershed is the largest "exceptional value" watershed, the highest designation any water can receive.

So what exactly is an exceptional value watershed? Basically, the water meets and/or exceeds the conditions necessary to support healthy populations of fish and wildlife and also recreation in and on the water. There are two requirements that the water must meet to qualify as exceptional value. First, it must meet all the requirements necessary for high



View of Kettle Creek in the Upper Watershed

quality waters (i.e. must exceed standard water chemistry parameters 99% of the time, support a high quality aquatic community) and it must be located within or designated as some type of landmark (i.e. National wildlife refuge, wilderness trout stream, outstanding regional/local resource water). Secondly, the water must be a surface water of exceptional ecological significance. The water quality in exceptional value waters must be protected in its existing condition and cannot be lowered. Those last three words, "cannot be lowered" are the most important because they serve to protect exceptional value waters (such as the Kettle Creek watershed) and preserve them just as they are today.

The Kettle Creek watershed has been described and appreciated by many residents and visitors alike as one of the most scenic, enjoyable, and remote areas left in Pennsylvania. The responsibility belongs to all of us - the local communities and those visiting - to maintain and preserve this exceptional value watershed because there just aren't too many around like it anymore. Everyone has done a good job so far....let's keep up the good work!

This is a friendly reminder to KCWA Members who have not paid their Year 2000 dues. Your support is greatly appreciated! Please send your Year 2000 membership dues to: KCWA, P.O. Box 317, Cross Fork, PA 17729.