

# Kettle Creek Watershed Association News

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Volume III, Issue 2

June 2001

## Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship

On June 26, the KCWA was pleased to accept the Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship in the category of assessment and planning. Trout Unlimited was honored along with the KCWA on the award plaque. This is the first year for these awards which celebrated outstanding watershed projects of 25 organizations in the Commonwealth. The Awards Ceremony should be available for viewing on [www.greenworks.tv](http://www.greenworks.tv).

In addition, Senator Jake Corman and Representative Mike Hanna also awarded the KCWA with a Senate Citation and Legislative Citation, respectively, during the reception that followed the Governor's Award Ceremony.



Pictured from left are: DEP Secretary David Hess, Kettle Creek Watershed Director Amy Gottesfeld, and KCWA President John Larson.

## Workshop Event was a Success

The "Stream Improvement and Importance of Riparian Buffer Zones" workshop that was held on March 31 – April 1 at Deb's Place Restaurant was well received by its 23 participants. Funding for the workshop was provided by a DEP Environmental Education Grant, the Growing Greener Grants Program, the Dominion Foundation (of Dominion Transmission), and Trout Unlimited.

On the first day, short classes covering topics such as leaf litter, an important part of the aquatic food chain, and planning your own riparian buffer zone project were taught by biologists from the Stroud Water Research Center (Jim McGonigle) and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Susan Richards and Rebecca Wertime). The afternoon was filled with learning about bioengineering techniques, including on-site group project planning, with Dennis O'Connor, restoration ecologist from Portland, Oregon.

On the second day, workshop participants planted live willow cuttings on the regraded streambanks of the natural stream channel design project that was done behind Deb's Place. Willow cuttings were planted using bioengineering techniques

such as fascine bundles and brush layers. Workshop participants are seen installing fascine bundles in the picture below.

Regrading of streambanks to a gentler slope is often part of natural stream channel design projects.



However, it is not enough just to regrade the banks. It is very important to plant native trees and shrubs along the streambank. The trees and shrubs serve not only to strengthen the bank and hold soil in place with their root systems, they also provide "leaf litter" which is an important food source for aquatic insects. And of course this in turn benefits the fish because the aquatic insects are their main source of food.

Planting trees and shrubs that are native to the watershed have a much higher rate of survival and require minimal maintenance (such as watering) as opposed to exotic introduced plants because they are naturally adapted to soil and climate conditions of the watershed. Native plants also provide the necessary food supplements required by insects, birds, and mammals whereas some non-native plants may not provide any nutrients and may even be poisonous to wildlife.

## **PennDOT, Major Partner in Headgate Project**

Since the announcement of the \$100,000 grant from the Growing Greener Grants Program for the Headgate Project, a stream habitat improvement project on Kettle Creek, additional money has been granted towards the project. PennDOT, a major partner in the project, originally committed \$30,000 for project materials and has since agreed to an additional \$10,000 for a total contribution of \$40,000.

PennDOT's partnership with the KCWA and its partners serves as a prime example of how working together can produce significant benefits for everyone. This natural stream channel design project will protect the road while at the same time it will improve fish habitat. In its present condition, State Route 144 is susceptible to severe damage during a high flow event due to the lack of streambank between the road and Kettle Creek. Kettle Creek takes a sharp 90-degree bend before it reaches the road and flows right along the road for nearly ¾ mile because there is no other place for it to go; so in a

flood event, the force of the water could easily take the road out.

The project is scheduled to begin sometime in late August or September of this year.



Project partners from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PennDOT, and PA Fish and Boat Commission discuss project details on-site at Headgate.



### **Wildlife Forever & Fish America Foundation Grant \$11,500 for Headgate**

The KCWA recently received a grant for \$11,500 from a partnership between Wildlife Forever and Fish America Foundation, a nonprofit division of the American Sportfishing Association. Many thanks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region V for helping to bring about this partnership for the Headgate Project.



### **Thanks Keystone Central School District Vo-Tech Students**

A big thanks to Mark Chapell's carpentry class for building a stream table for the KCWA. The wood they used was recycled from an old pavilion at Hyner State Park that was torn down and rebuilt, so the "new" stream table has some historical significance to it.

This portable model stream was developed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. The stream table is a box approximately 6 ft long constructed of a prefabricated hollow-core door that sits upon saw horses or wooden legs that bend back under the table for easy storage. A small-battery operated pump circulates water through sediment, simulated by recycled plastic grit. This model allows for easy demonstration of stream processes such as bank erosion and how a stream reacts to being dredged or channelized.

Expenses for additional materials were paid for by a grant from the Canaan Valley Institute. The stream table will be made available for use by local schools and environmental education programs, as well as the Kettle Creek Watershed Association.

*This newsletter was funded through a grant by the Canaan Valley Institute.*

## **\$5,000 Awarded by Dominion Foundation at KCWA Annual Meeting**

On Saturday, March 31 the KCWA held its Annual Meeting at the Kettle Creek Hose Company in Cross Fork. Over 40 people were in attendance. The highlight of the evening was a \$5,000 check presented to the KCWA by Dominion Foundation (of Dominion Transmission). The money will be used for restoration of riparian vegetation at completed stream habitat improvement projects and for the March 31-April 1 "Stream Improvement and the Importance of Riparian Buffer Zones" workshop.

An update by the Kettle Creek Watershed Director, Amy Gottesfeld, summarized all accomplishments and upcoming projects for the next year. Other presentations included Dick Sodergren, KCWA Vice President on the stream habitat improvement projects; Bob Hedin of Hedin Environmental on the acid mine drainage problems and remediation program of Kettle Creek; and Tom Herlihy of Gannett Fleming, Inc. on the use of WestTan Soils for bio-capping in the proposed surface reclamation project.



Pictured from left are: KCWA Chairman of the Board Jude Richardson, KCWA President John Larson, KCWA Vice Chairman of the Board Rick Rose, and John Frith of Dominion Transmission.

Dominion Transmission is the natural gas transportation and storage subsidiary of Richmond-based Dominion, the nation's largest fully integrated natural gas and electric power company. They operate North America's largest natural gas storage system, which includes the Leidy storage facility located just outside of the Kettle Creek watershed.

## **PSU Center for Watershed Stewardship Finishes Study**

On April 26, Penn State University's graduate students from the Center for Watershed Stewardship gave their final presentation for their yearlong planning project on the Kettle Creek watershed. They discussed everything from history and culture of the watershed to stream habitat characterization and fisheries. The last hour of the meeting was devoted to poster sessions on the students' individual and team research projects. More will be written on their studies after their Watershed Stewardship Report is completed.

The Watershed Stewardship Report is in press at this time and will be available for viewing through the Center's website at: [www.sala.psu.edu/watershed/](http://www.sala.psu.edu/watershed/)

## **Update, Germania Branch Adopt-A-Stream Project**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 14! The completion of the Germania Branch Adopt-A-Stream Project with the PA Fish and Boat Commission is scheduled for the final construction phase. We will be installing 3 downstream wings on the water jack dams that were constructed on Germania Branch in the village of Germania, Potter County, last summer.

Some of us may start work as early as 7 AM, however your help would be greatly appreciated any time that day!

## **Update, Middle Branch Passive Treatment System**

The SAP (successive alkalinity producing) system that was constructed to treat acid mine drainage discharges to the Middle Branch is up and running. The one limestone treatment bed has not yet been treated with the Pyrolusite Microbiological System, nonetheless the treated water has an average pH of 7.1. That is a significant improvement from an initial pH of 2.7! We will continue to monitor and report on the progress of the Middle Branch passive treatment system.

**Kettle Creek Watershed Association**  
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Address Correction Requested



## **INSIDE YOUR JUNE 2001 KETTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION NEWS:**

- KCWA wins the Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship
- PennDOT, partner in stream habitat improvement project
- \$11,500 grant from Wildlife Forever and Fish America Foundation
- \$5,000 awarded by Dominion Foundation
- .....And more!

For more information on Kettle Creek watershed projects or Trout Unlimited's Kettle Creek Home Rivers Program, please contact Amy Gottesfeld at (570) 726-9907 or [agottesfeld@tu.org](mailto:agottesfeld@tu.org).  
Membership donations may be sent to KCWA, P.O. Box 317, Cross Fork, PA 17729.