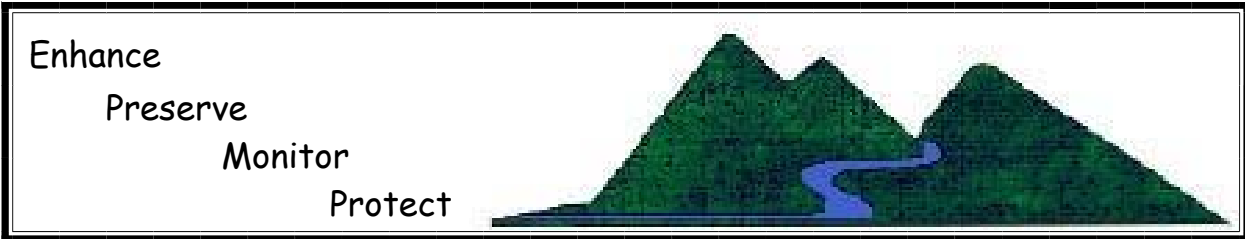


Kettle Creek Watershed Association News



Volume V, Issue I

March 2003

Headgate Project Completed

The instream construction of the Headgate Project was completed in early November this past fall. Six J-hooks, six cross vanes, a mud sill, and numerous additional habitat enhancement features were constructed on a reach nearly 3/4 of a mile long on Kettle Creek in Stewardson Township, Potter County. Claiming that the project is "completed" isn't altogether true, however, because there is still much work to be done to establish a healthy native riparian buffer zone. The planting efforts will begin as soon as mother nature thaws her soils from this winter.



Dave McIntyre, KCWA Board Member, and his wife Sharon spent countless hours assisting with the project—rain, shine, or snow. Many thanks!!

This project marks the fourth stream stabilization and habitat enhancement project completed on Kettle Creek using natural stream channel design methods and large rock vanes. However, this Headgate Project certainly does and should stand out from the others. What makes this project special is the partnership and involvement of our state's Department of Transportation, PennDOT. PennDOT paid for 1400 tons of rock (a significant contribution because the large rock used to construct the rock vanes is typically one of largest expenses). PennDOT also completed a wetland restoration adjacent to the project site which provides added benefits for wildlife on Kettle Creek.

Dave Putnam of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is to thank for this partner-

ship with PennDOT because he saw a unique opportunity to couple preventative road maintenance with fish habitat enhancement. Before the project, this section of Kettle Creek suffered from bank erosion and significant channel instability which together increased the potential for severe road damage to the adjacent State Route 144. So in addition to the enhancement of fish habitat, the project provides protection for State Route 144 through bank stabilization by construction of strategically placed cross vanes and J-hooks that redirect the erosive forces of the water away from the streambank and road. Serious bank erosion is also addressed at the upstream end of the project reach.

It is the KCWA's and TU's hope that this project will serve as a model of successful partnerships between various agencies and organizations for efforts where seemingly different objectives are sought (such as road protection and fish habitat improvement as in this case). By working together, even with different end goals in mind, it is amazing what can be accomplished. That said, we also hope this project demonstrates that riprap (which is not known for its fish habitat qualities) is not the only means available for road protection, and by working together as a team, benefits can be realized for everyone (even the fish).



Dave Putnam (Far right, USFWS) watches as Neil Wolfe uses a laser level to ensure the rock vanes are installed at the correct grades.

— More Headgate Project details on the following pages —

More on Headgate...



BEFORE: View looking downstream from upper end of project reach.



BEFORE: View looking downstream towards SR 144 in middle of project reach.



AFTER: View looking downstream from upper end of project reach.



AFTER: Same view after regrading of streambank to a gentler slope, construction of a cross vane, and installation of a mud sill on this section of the project.



Dave Keller (Habitat Management Section Manager for PA Fish & Boat Commission) and George Daniel (PA Fish & Boat Commission) give the equipment operator, Don Stover of the USFWS directions for moving the logs during installation of the mud sill. Neil Wolfe (KCWA/TU) and Jared Dressler (USFWS) are standing to the far right.

Much thanks to Dave Keller and the PA Fish & Boat Commission

*Thanks to David Putnam,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

Dave Putnam of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had this to comment on the project, "The Headgate Project is my favorite stream restoration project to date. It is an excellent example of the application of fluvial geomorphology and a great example of cooperation. With major funding from PennDOT and the DEP's Growing Greener Program and the dedication of the KCWA members and assistance from the USFWS and the PA Fish and Boat Commission, we have a project that will demonstrate we can combine bank protection and habitat improvement in one project. Special thanks need to be given to John Larson and Dave McIntyre for their long hours of hard work. They were there from start to finish and put in many long days in weather that was nasty at times."

Dave Putnam is a fish and wildlife biologist. He has worked at the PA Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1979. Dave has spent most of his time working on various activities related to the Clean Water Act and habitat restoration, however over the past five years he has concentrated more specifically on stream restoration.

Headgate Project Continued - It's All About Partnership



Pictured here is Don Stover of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Don is nothing short of a true artist when it comes to constructing these projects.



The Growing Greener Grants Program awarded \$100,000 for this project.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was responsible for designing and constructing this project. They have been a major partner in previous bank stabilization and fish habitat enhancement on Kettle Creek projects.



Wildlife Forever and the Fish America Foundation provided a grant for \$11,500.



Thanks to the DCNR Bureau of Forestry's Susquehannock District and James McLane, the landowners that graciously granted permission for the project.



Funds for purchasing native trees and shrubs to establish the riparian buffer zone were granted through a WHIP grant by the NRCS (Coudersport Field Office) and a grant from the Dominion Foundation.



The PA Fish and Boat Commission's Habitat Management Section designed and assisted with the installation of the mud sill.



This project would not have been as successful without the commitment of KCWA volunteers. Pictured here are Al Lyons (left, KCWA member) and John Larson (right, KCWA President). Special thanks to John for his long hours at the project site nearly every day!

Special Thanks to PennDOT



PennDOT contributed 1400 tons of wall rock for construction of cross vanes and J-hooks. This amounts to nearly \$30,0000.



Neil Wolfe (left, Kettle Creek Field Coordinator) thanks volunteers from the Osceola-Phillipsburg Area High School after a day of planting, seeding, and mulching.

During the initial survey for the stream restoration project, Dave Putnam, USFWS and Toni Zawisa, PENNDOT, identified the potential to restore approximately one acre of floodplain wetland. Partnering with the Kettle Creek Watershed Association, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and others to restore this wetland between SR 144 and Kettle Creek was a positive experience for PENNDOT. Wetland mitigation credits that will offset impacts that may occur as the result of future minor bridge replacements in the area were gained at minimal cost and a wetland that had been disturbed by past road and utility projects was restored due to partnering and volunteerism. (Contributed by Toni Zawisa, PennDOT)

KCWA Website Undergoing Changes

If you are a frequent visitor to the KCWA's website at www.kettlecreek.org, you will be pleased to know that it is experiencing a "makeover". Once completed, it should be much easier to navigate and find recent news on projects in-progress, as well as reports and pictures on completed projects. All newsletters dating back to March 1999 are available for downloading as .pdf files that can be read in Adobe Acrobat (available for free download at www.adobe.com). The Lower Kettle Creek Restoration Plan and the Upper Kettle Creek Fish Habitat Conservation Plan will also be made available for download and reading at your leisure.

In addition, we hope to make the 356-page Watershed Stewardship Report on Kettle Creek by the Penn State Center for Watershed Stewardship available and separated by chapters so you can download only the portions that most interest you. So, keep checking in with us to see what new changes we've made and if you haven't seen our website yet, there is no better time to start than now!

The KCWA website is maintained by Thumtowntown at www.thumtowntown.com. All information is provided to Thumtowntown by the Kettle Creek Watershed Director, Amy Gottesfeld. If you have comments or suggestions for the website, please direct them to Amy at agottesfeld@tu.org.

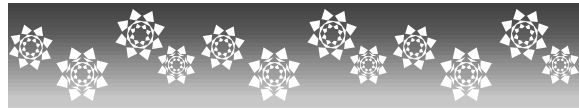
Trout say "Thank You" for New Cover

The KCWA completed a fish habitat improvement project in late August 2002. This project is located just downstream of the Bunnell Bridge at the lower end of the Special Regulations Fishing Section on Kettle Creek. Dick Sodergren, KCWA Vice-President, is to be credited with spearheading this project using funds from a PA Fish & Boat Commission executive grant for Kettle Creek.

Dave Keller of the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Habitat Management Section designed the project which consists of one mud sill and several log vanes. Native trees will be planted within the riparian buffer zone beginning this spring.



Completed mud sills and log vanes provided immediate cover from hot summer sun for the trout.



Mark These Dates on Your Calendar!



Saturday, April 5, 2003 @8:00 AM: Volunteer tree planting along Kettle Creek; Meet at Bureau of Forestry Maintenance Building in Cross Fork



Saturday, April 26, 2003 @ 7:00 PM: KCWA Annual Meeting to be held at the Kettle Creek Hose Co. in Cross Fork



Sunday, April 27, 2003 @ 10:00 AM: Volunteer tree planting along Kettle Creek; Meet at Bureau of Forestry Maintenance Building in Cross Fork

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Awards \$35,000

In July 2002, Trout Unlimited was awarded \$35,000 through the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program of the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. This grant will help to fund stream improvement projects such as the Headgate Project, riparian forest buffer projects, and dirt and gravel road studies, among other projects. This marks the fifth year of this grants program which "aims to improve the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers by providing funding to communities to restore their part of the Bay watershed" (www.nfwf.org).

Sproul State Forest District Forester, Butch Davey, Retires

As of January 13, Robert "Butch" Davey, the District Forester for the Sproul State Forest has embarked upon a new career called retirement. After 42 years of service for the PA Bureau of Forestry, the past 20 in the Sproul State Forest, Butch has certainly earned this new stage in his life. Over the last five years, Butch has spent a lot of time helping with acid mine drainage remediation efforts in the lower Kettle Creek watershed. Whether it was assisting with educational tours, taking water samples, flushing the passive treatment system, pulling grass from the limestone treatment beds, helping to clean up dump sites, or attending meetings (the list goes on and on), Butch was an outstanding supporter of Kettle Creek AMD projects and will certainly be missed!

Kettle Creek Watershed Director, Amy Gottesfeld, gave a short speech at his retirement dinner on January 11 to acknowledge and thank Butch for all his support and dedication to Kettle Creek projects. The KCWA and TU extend their sincere appreciation for all his hard work and wish him the best of luck for many years to come. (By the way, we still hope he'll come to assist with the passive treatment system flushing once in a while!)



A big THANK YOU to Butch for his dedication and commitment to improving the lower Kettle Creek watershed! (Pictured here is Butch Davey with Amy Gottesfeld at his retirement celebration)



OOPS! If you recently received a letter for KCWA membership renewal, you may have noticed it stated that some of the stream projects were completed "without the help of KCWA Vice President, Dick Sodergren, and volunteers." It should have read "*with* the help..." of course! Sincere apologies from KCWA Membership Chair, Mary Hirst!

Huling Branch AMD Collection System Completed

The installation of a collection system for Huling Branch AMD discharges was completed in mid-December. Monthly monitoring of flow and water chemistry will help us to determine what type of treatment alternatives may be considered to remediate Huling Branch and alleviate Twomile Run of its worst contributor of AMD. Hedin Environmental will analyze the data and generate a final report to evaluate treatment alternatives. The report is due to be completed by June 2004.



Several deep mine openings such as this one were uncovered during the construction. Pipes were installed at these openings to collect polluted drainage from the abandoned mines.

Watershed Conservation Guide Well Received, Positive Feedback

Between October and January, a copy of the Kettle Creek Watershed Conservation Guide: A Landowner's Handbook was mailed to all property owners in the watershed and KCWA members. Numerous individuals and other watershed groups have commented on the usefulness of the guide and many have even requested duplicate copies to hand out to others interested in similar watershed conservation efforts. The KCWA and TU encourage other watershed organizations to use this handbook as a model to produce similar watershed guides that give a background on watershed issues and improvement plans, as well as provide information the property owner can put to use on his/her own land to promote environmentally sound landowner stewardship.

If for some reason you did not receive a Kettle Creek Watershed Conservation Guide or would like additional copies, please send an email to Amy Gottesfeld at agottesfeld@tu.org or drop a note in the mail to the KCWA at P.O. Box 317, Cross Fork, PA 17729.

Kettle Creek Watershed Association
P.O. Box 317
Cross Fork, PA 17729



Inside this Kettle Creek Watershed Association News



Early snowfall in late October provides a scenic backdrop for the upper end of the Headgate project reach.



Feature: Headgate Project

Positive Feedback on
Conservation Guide

Huling Branch Collection
System Completed

And More!

Visit our website at www.kettlecreek.org (see article inside on website updates!)

If you have any questions or comments regarding Kettle Creek projects, please contact the Kettle Creek Watershed Director, Amy Gottesfeld. Amy can be reached at (570) 726-9907 or via email at agottesfeld@tu.org.

Membership contributions and donations should be sent directly to the KCWA at P.O. Box 317, Cross Fork, PA 17729.