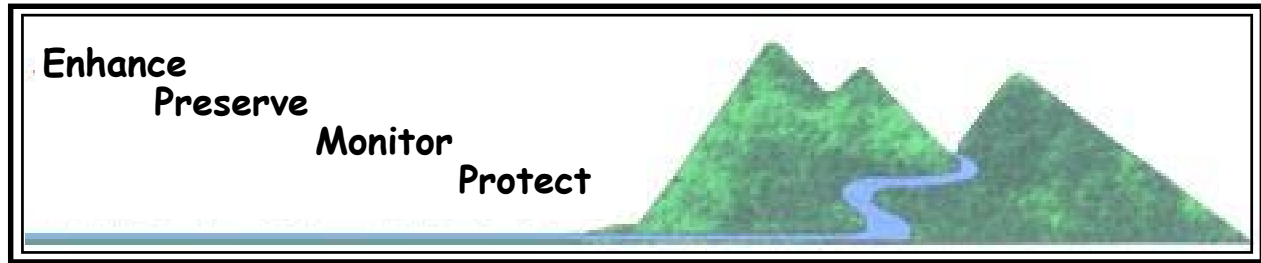


Kettle Creek Watershed Association News



Volume VII, Issue II

January 2008

Cross Fork Brook Trout Habitat Project

Many, many thanks to each and every person who assisted with the coordination and construction of the brook trout habitat enhancement project on Cross Fork Creek in Potter County. Sixteen log vanes and two modified bank cribbing structures, which are similar to mud sills, were installed at five project sites on Cross Fork between the confluences of Yochum Run and Windfall Run. Additionally, a 130-ft mud sill with 30-ft wing logs and multi-log vane deflectors was installed on Kettle Creek in Clinton County near the village of Cross Fork (just behind the Twin Ponds) as a separate project sponsored by the KCWA and the Kettle Creek TU Chapter.

With the oversight and guidance of Dave Keller from the PA Fish and Boat Commission and equipment operation by his staff, labor assistance was provided by the Quehanna Prison Boot Camp, Potter County Trailblazers, Clinton County Conservation District, and more than twenty volunteers representing the following organizations: KCWA, Kettle Creek TU Chapter, Allegheny Mountain TU Chapter, Blair County TU Chapter, James Zwald TU Chapter, Gods Country TU Chapter, and PA Senior Environment Corps. While installation of the mud sill at the Bear Trap Lodge took place last fall between September 11th and 21st, the majority of work at the rest of the project sites was completed this past summer between July 5th and July 11th, with a couple extra days in mid-September to finish the installation of log vanes at the most upstream project site on Cross Fork.

Other than excavation of trenches to construct the mud sills and modified bank cribbing, most of the excavation and installation of the habitat structures was accomplished through good old-fashioned sweat labor. Although the sunny weather and low flows this summer provided optimal conditions for this type of work, this project would not have been such a success without the volunteers.

The cost for all materials (i.e. logs, stone, rebar) used in the Cross Fork brook trout habitat enhancement project was covered by a \$20,000 grant to Trout Unlimited from the FishAmerica Foundation (\$12,000) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$8,000) as part of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. It is noteworthy to mention that this grant award was the first such grant given to a project in Pennsylvania through the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Additional material costs of

\$2,483 for the Kettle Creek project site were covered by the KCWA (ever wonder what your membership dues are used for?)

The KCWA and Trout Unlimited look forward to assisting the PA Fish and Boat Commission with future fish surveys so that we may continue to report back to everyone with the results of how these projects have benefited resident trout populations -- so stay tuned.

-submitted by Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited



Hard at work on a mud sill structure at the site behind Kiski Camp on Cross Fork Creek project.

- photo Sharon McIntyre



Completed log vanes at Site 3, above Bear Trap Lodge on Cross Fork Creek.

-photo Amy Wolfe

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Please contact KCWA Board Chair, Mary Hirst, for more information on the KCWA and its projects. Mary can be reached by email at hirsteng@penn.com.

You may also contact Amy Wolfe, Director of Abandoned Mine Programs at Trout Unlimited, for more information specifically on Kettle Creek AMD Projects. Amy can be reached at awolfe@tu.org or (570) 726-3118.

Or write to the KCWA at:

KCWA, P.O. Box 317
Cross Fork, PA 17729

More information is also available at:
www.kettlecreek.org

AMD projects are ongoing , thanks to the efforts of Amy Wolfe with Trout Unlimited, and participation by John Larson and Dean Mertz of the KCWA.



Here are two pictures Amy Wolfe took of the Middle Branch passive treatment system -- a picture taken of the completed rehabilitation from a helicopter during a flyover with DEP, and the image below was taken during rehab construction



Last year's "Where on the Kettle?" location—only one person registered a guess—which was incorrect. The photo was taken from the causeway bridge at Ole Bull State Park—looking downstream.

Submit this month's guess to Mary Hirst at hirsteng@penn.com—put "Watershed photo guess" in the subject line. Or send a postcard to the Watershed address. Submit by April 1, 2008

Bucktail High School Trout in the Classroom

Here's a brief overview of the Trout in the Classroom program that Bucktail High School took over last year after Rick Wykoff at Renovo Elementary retired and passed the tank equipment up to us. My Science 9 class participated in the program and greatly benefited from various watershed focused activities in the classroom. Two seniors, Gabby Davis and Jenni Dremel took charge of keeping the chemistry of the tanks within suitable levels and monitoring the progress of the trout as part of their senior project. All the students were involved in collecting data daily and participated in tank maintenance. The students also participated in a tree planting project and Acid Mine Drainage investigation in the Kettle Creek Watershed with Amy Wolfe from Trout Unlimited. We raised approximately 200 young trout fingerlings for release in the watershed last May and two adult trout, donated by the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association. The adult trout served as great study organisms in the classroom as well. The trout fry were donated by the Cedar Springs trout hatchery. The project is continuing this year with twenty-five Science 9 students participating. The Trout in the Classroom program provides a great practical hands-on connection with our science curriculum. I feel very privileged to have been given the opportunity to work with so many wonderful people in the Clinton County area in order to expose our students to the laboratory in their backyard! Thanks especially to the Kettle Creek Watershed Association for their continued financial support that makes the project possible at Bucktail.

- Submitted by Laurie Hendricks



This is senior Jenni Dremel squeezing the eggs at the Cedar Springs Trout Hatchery

-photo by Laurie Hendricks



Students on a May day releasing the fry into Kettle Creek at the Headgate area.

-photo by Mary Hirst



Projects on the horizon: KCWA Habitat Committee is working with the PF&BC to explore potential improvements to the Special Project Area in Cross Fork for kid's 12 and under. Should everything go according to schedule—that work could start next summer. PF&BC will start planning on the project after KCWA gets the approvals from the adjacent land owners. Funding would be through grant money, KCWA funds and a generous donation from the Toth family in memory of Denny Toth, an avid fisherman who loved to fish the Kettle.

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

Address Correction Requested

KCWA Quarterly Membership Meeting Dates
Saturday, February 2, 2008

KCWA Annual Meeting, Saturday May 3, 2008

Membership meetings are now held every three months on the first Saturday of the month. Meetings begin at 6:00 PM and are held at the Kettle Creek Hose Co. in Cross Fork. Check the website at www.kettlecreek.org for more information or changes to meeting dates and times.

Mark Your Calendar!

Keystone Coldwater Conference
Penn Stater Conference Center
February 22—23, 2008
www.coldwaterheritage.com for information

Kettle Creek Valley Outdoor Show
Saturday, March 29, 2008
Cross Fork Fire Hall
9:00am—4:00pm

Exhibits, vendors, food, lectures, demonstrations. What is there to do in the Kettle Creek Valley? Come to the show and find out! KCWA booth will be there.

