



Kettle Creek Watershed Association

January. 2018 Newsletter



Mountain stream feeding a Kettle Creek tributary
Photo by Doug Roberts

The Importance of your Membership

The following scenario is easy to imagine. We have all heard it, and, maybe we have even participated in a conversation that goes something like this:

“Hey Fred. How’s fishing?”

“Not too good. How about you?”

“Was up Kettle Creek yesterday. There were only a few bugs on the water and it was muddy.”

“Muddy? We haven’t had rain in a couple of weeks. Where were you?”

In This Issue

Supporting the KCWA

Project Update – Beaverdam
Run

TU Redd Survey

Local History – 1903 Forest
Fire

Calendar of Events

How to Renew your
Membership



"Up the Swingin Chair. I couldn't figure out why the water was muddy either. I fished a while and decided to head upstream and see what was up."

"What did ya find?"

"Well I got up near Steggie's old place. There was a bulldozer runnin' in and out of the creek. Just had things all stirred up."

"What was a bulldozer doing in the stream?"

"I don't know. Didn't stop to ask. Maybe someone's building on the other side of the creek, or they're putting in another gas well. Didn't bother to find out."

"Well you should have called someone."

"If I would have known someone to call I might have. But I didn't know who to call. Besides, somebody else probably did."

"Think it's stopped?"

"Came by there this morning and it was still going on. Somebody ought to do something."

"Yeah, somebody ought to."

And so the conversation goes. The theme is "Somebody ought to do something," and it is this watershed group that is the "Somebody," and that somebody is not limited to a few officers and members who live near the stream or campers who spend most of their free time along the stream (or planning how to get there).

It may not be such an obscene insult as a bulldozer in the stream, but visitors to the Kettle Creek Valley are the ones who are most likely to first spot problems. It could be something as simple a clogged road cross pipe, a tree down on a favorite parking area, a "fish

hog", ATVs driving through the stream or any number of problems. Sometimes the problems are simple fixes, such as a few minutes shovel work clearing the pipe intake, or something requiring more expertise such as the Fish and Boat Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection or the County Conservation District.



Photo by Dan Roberts

To aid you in making those calls, in this and forthcoming issues of this newsletter the contact information of the agencies will be listed. Fred's buddy in the above scenario will have the numbers he needs to put into his cellphone.

More importantly, Fred and his buddy, as well as all our esteemed readers should be members of the Kettle Creek Watershed Association. Many ears hear much, many eyes see much, many hands make labor easier, and many voices speak with authority when united together.

If you are a member of the KCWA be sure to renew your membership, if you haven't already. If you are not a member; why not? It is inexpensive at only \$10 per year. The KCWA could use your voice, your hands and your eyes and ears in protecting the unequaled Kettle Creek Valley.

by Mike Klimkos

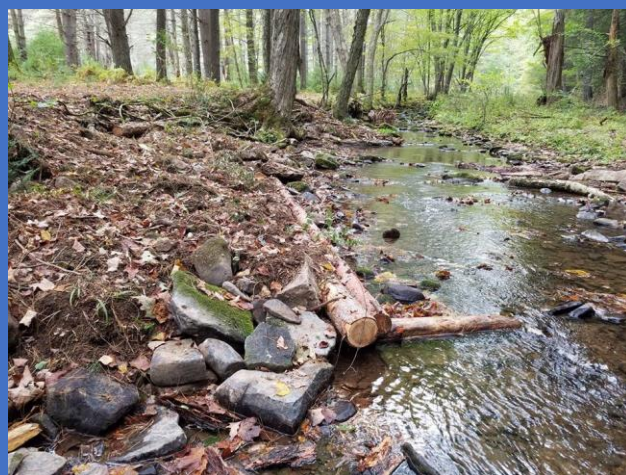


Project Update: Beaverdam Run

During the week of September 18th, 2018, members of Kettle Creek Watershed Association, Clinton County Conservation District, Lock Haven University, and Trout Unlimited completed habitat improvement project on Beaverdam Run. A total of 10 people contributed approximately 150 hours of in-kind services towards the project. Project partners built 3 Log framed cross vanes, 4 log framed deflectors, 2 single log vanes, and 7 root-wad deflectors. These structures increased brook trout habitat by narrowing over widened sections establishing plunge pool habitat, and adding complex woody habitat. These structures also stabilized 1,100 feet of Beaverdam Run, while reducing non-point sediment pollution by 820 lbs/year. The completed project was built on a section of Beaverdam run that is listed as Class A, in order to sustain that population. As of right now, there are no future plans/phases of this project, however, there have been conversations of continuing the work upstream to try to increase the miles of stream that is listed as a class A.



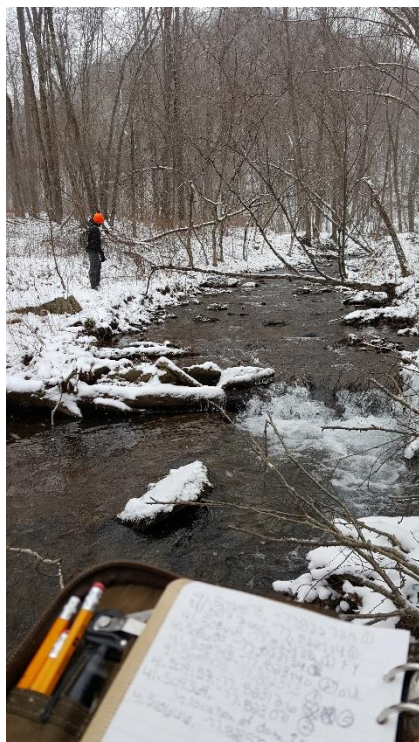
The photo to the left was taken this past July during low water conditions. Two months later, TU and volunteers constructed many of the structures seen below.



-Article and photos by
Doug Roberts



Photos
provided by
Kathleen
Lavelle



Trout Unlimited Redd Survey

Late this past fall, KCWA and Trout Unlimited volunteers spread out across some of the watersheds in PA to look for spawning trout. This survey is done on a yearly basis to track the location and distribution of spawning habitat and can provide insight on the success of certain restoration projects such as culvert removal. On this chilly November morning, volunteers met in Cross Forks for a brief training session before dividing into teams of 2 or 4. The volunteers were assigned sections of stream in the Cross Fork Creek watershed to walk and record the location of redds (trout spawning beds). While the data has not yet been analyzed, Phil Thomas, a Habitat Coordinator for TU, believes that it has been a pretty successful spawning season with similar numbers recorded in 2016. More information about TU redd surveys in Pennsylvania can be found [here](#). If you would be interested in volunteering to help with redd surveys in the Kettle Creek Watershed, future surveys will be announced in future quarterly newsletters.

-Article by Doug Roberts



Nice brookie from a Kettle Creek tributary
Photo by Doug Roberts



Local History: 1903 Forest Fire

In the spring of 1903 the weather had been cold and dry. The sun beat down on the mountains that had been cleared of their trees in the Kettle Creek Valley. Tops and slash left behind by loggers dried out and conditions were ripe for fire.

In 1903 smallpox was a dreaded disease. It would spring up in unexpected places, spurred on by people in close contact with one and other and unsanitary conditions. Lumber camps in Pennsylvania's fit that description. In early April two men who had smallpox left Cross Fork, bound for Renovo and then on to Williamsport. When they were found to have the disease, they were immediately quarantined in Williamsport. It was discovered they had worked at Driscoll's lumber camp about four miles north of Cross Fork.

Dr. E.H. Ashcraft, the "quarantine officer" for Potter County and Dr. George G. Groff of the State Board of Health visited Cross Fork in search of other patients. At Driscoll's camp they found eight others suffering from smallpox. A quarantine was placed around the camp and armed guards were posted to prevent people from travelling through the area. The Buffalo and Susquehanna Railroad was ordered not to sell tickets out of town; all mail had to be fumigated; and public meetings including entertainment, church services and schools were prohibited. At the lumber camp, new quarters for the infected were ordered to be constructed. At least two more men came down with smallpox.

By April 30, 1903 large fires were roaring through northcentral Pennsylvania. Treetops and slash left behind by loggers was consumed

as thousands upon thousands of acres burned. That night the fire roared into Cross Fork and destroyed the Lackawanna Lumber Company sawmill and the barrel stave factory of the American Sugar Refining Company as well as a large portion of the town. The fire cost one man his life when he entered his burning house to retrieve his coat. Many of the firefighters were burned while fighting the conflagration.

It was not uncommon for lumber mills to burn down, most did at one time or another. Whether or not it was started by a forest fire, was accidentally started by the working of the mill, or was purposely set as a result of the smallpox is debatable. It is almost certain that the conditions for burning were at their best and the wood-frame buildings were tinder dry.

The fires continued throughout Pennsylvania that spring until rain eventually extinguished them. Millions of feet of cut lumber and logs were lost as well as many lumber camps, dwellings, and the last vestiges of Ole Bull's ill-fated colony.

- by Mike Klimkos





How to Renew your Membership

Please consider becoming a part of our organization. Once you become a member you will start to receive email updates about KCWA events and work that is being completed. Members also receive a copy of the quarterly newsletter and much more. We encourage you to become active in KCWA and participate in as many events as possible.

By USPS Mail: Please download the [membership form](#)*, type your info into it, print it out and send it along with your check to the address provided on the form.

Online: We can now accept memberships online using your credit card. This is the easiest method to use. To do so follow this [link](#) to the KCWA Membership webpage.

KCWA 2018 Meetings and Events

All KCWA meetings are open to the public

March 4, 2018 @ 9:30 am
Clinton Co. Conservation Office

Project Healing Waters Event
May 4 through 6, 2018
Cross Fork

June 3, 2018 @ 9:30 am
Cross Fork Fire Hall

September 2, 2018 @ 9:30 am
Cross Fork Fire Hall

All dates and times are subject to change but will be posted on the KCWA website



Mountain stream feeding a Kettle Creek tributary
Photo by Doug Roberts



Important Contact Information

PA Fish and Boat Commission
Pollution Hotline 855-347-4545
Outside of business hours
PA Dept. of Environmental Protection,
800-541-2050
(24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Law Enforcement
Contact for Commission regulations, permits, and
other fishing and boating information.
Northcentral Law Enforcement
595 East Rolling Ridge Drive
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Telephone: (814) 359-5250

Department of Environmental Protection
North-central Regional Office
208 West Third Street, Suite 101
Williamsport, PA 17701-6448
Main Number & Emergency Response: (570) 327-
3636

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Susquehannock District Office
P.O. Box 673
Coudersport, PA 16915
814-274-3600

Sproul District Office
15187 Renovo Road
Renovo, PA 17764
570-923-6011

Tioga District Office
One Nessmuk Lane
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-724-2868

Kettle Creek State Park
97 Kettle Creek Park Lane
Renovo, PA 17764-9708
Phone: 570-923-6004

Ole Bull State Park
31 Valhalla Lane
Cross Fork, PA 17729-9701
Phone: 814-435-5000

Pennsylvania Game Commission
Northcentral Region
Post Office Box 5038
Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038
Phone: 570-398-4744, 570-398-4745

Operation Game Thief
1-888-PGC-8001 1-888-742-8001

Clinton County Conservation District
45 Cooperation Lane
Mill Hall, PA 17751
570-726-3798

Rivers Conservation & Fly Fishing Youth Camp Accepting Applications

The Cumberland Valley chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the 24th Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp. Several other states now offer similar camps, but this is the original camp that became the model for the others.

Camp is limited to boys and girls between 14 and 17. If you would like to have fun, work hard, and engage in a unique experience, get your application in early. The application process began November 1st. Up to 32 students will be selected to attend. If you know of any teenager who wants to learn more about fly fishing and what makes streams work the way they do go to:

www.riverscamp.com