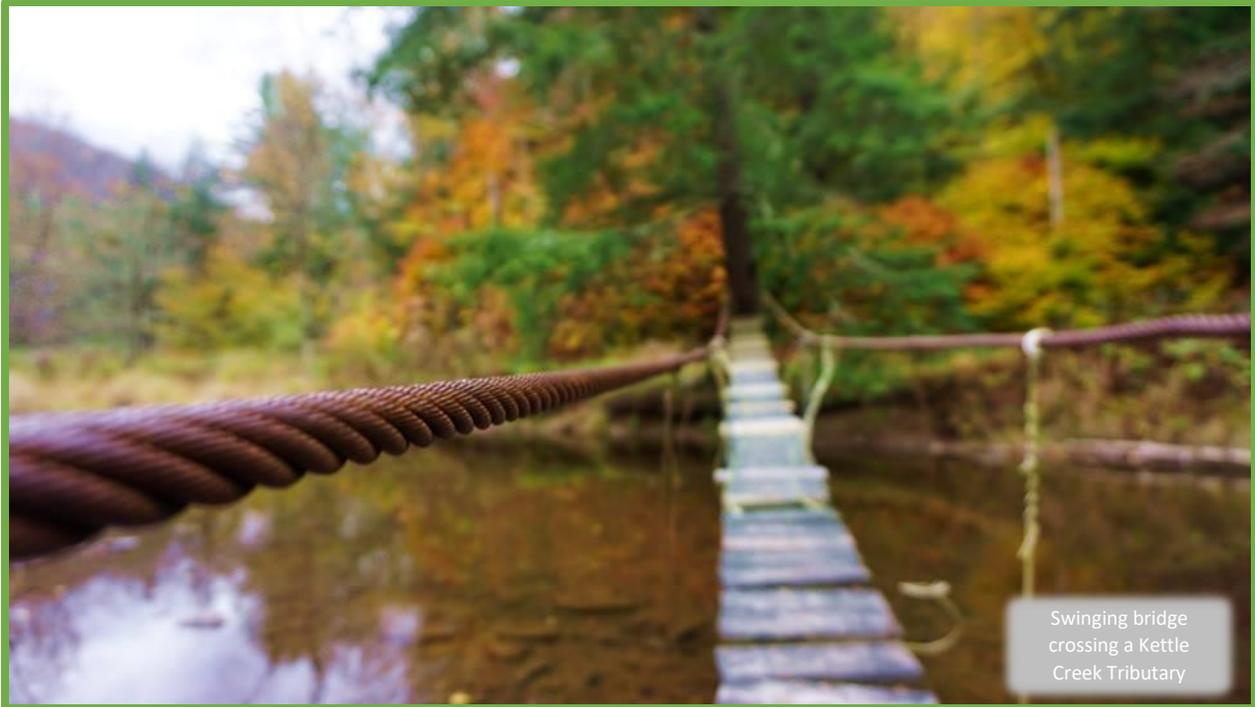




# Kettle Creek Watershed Association



## Transition into Fall

*Doug Roberts*

The changing of summer greens to autumn reds, oranges, and yellows are always something to look forward to in the northern tier of Pennsylvania. Of course for those that eagerly await the first snowfall in pursuit of winter sports, chilly Friday nights spent cheering at the local football game, and tantalizing aromas of home-baked pumpkin pie only whet our anticipation of Jack Frost. However, before you winter enthusiasts dust off your snowshoes or as others of you would rather just bundle up to endure the wrath of winter, be sure to take the time to enjoy all that Kettle Creek and the surrounding areas have to offer.

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*The peak fall foliage for the northern tier is expected to occur during the first two weeks of October*

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## In This Issue

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### Special Interest Articles

Transition into Fall	1
Sunfish	4
2018 Project Updates	3
Trees and Trout	6
Letter from the Chairman	7

### Announcements / Info

KCWA on Facebook	2
2019 Calendar of Events	6
Newsletter Articles	7



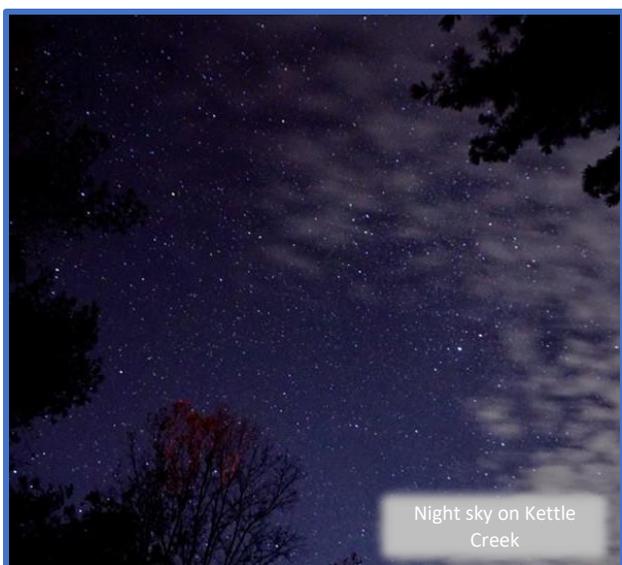
There is no shortage of things to do or see in the Kettle Creek Valley each fall. The peak fall foliage for the northern tier is expected to occur during the first two weeks of October. There should be some vibrant colors this fall due to the large amount of rain we have been experiencing over the past few months.

The following is a list of places to visit and things to do that you may want to include in your journey through Kettle Creek this fall:

-Renovo's Flaming Foliage Festival will be held Oct 12-14 this year.

-There are literally hundreds of hiking trails within the watershed, many of them with fantastic vistas. Remember to take only pictures and leave only footprints. The Susquehannock Trail System is one of my personal favorites and includes many spur trails that give you a taste for the variety of landscapes within the watershed.

-Fall can be a great time to view the night sky, and Cherry Springs State Park is a great place to do so.



-Ole Bull State Park and Kettle Creek State Park provide multiple opportunities for outdoor recreation as well as some informative programs by the park's naturalist. The KCWA sends out periodic updates of the monthly programs that are conducted. You can also email Ian Loewen (E-mail: [RA-NRSPKETT-EE@pa.gov](mailto:RA-NRSPKETT-EE@pa.gov) ) to subscribe to the mailing list.

Now with this long list of destinations and activities to occupy yourself with, be sure to set some time aside this fall for a trip or two up to Kettle Creek. See you there!



@KCWatershed

The KCWA is now on Facebook! In order to maintain a closer relationship with members and keep all of those that support us up to date with the latest information, we have decided to create a Facebook Page. This page contains regular posts regarding upcoming projects and improvement activities as well as updates on recreational activities in the valley (i.e. hiking, fishing, snowmobiling, etc).



## 2018 Project Updates

*Doug Roberts*

With the release of every quarterly newsletter I like to provide an update as to what we have been working towards as an organization and what we have accomplished over the course of the year. This being the last newsletter for 2018 I hope to leave you with a sense of accomplishment of the work that has been done this year. For those of you that frequent the section of Kettle Creek known as Headgate, you have most likely seen the large sycamore tree that has fallen into the stream. We have been working towards removing this obstruction. Also, what you may not have seen is a large gravel bar that has formed as well as several displaced stones from the rock veins that were built in this section of the stream. The KCWA has been working with supporting organizations on repermitting and equipment access in order to make the necessary repairs to this popular fishing spot.

One project that was scheduled to occur this year has been put on hold due to the record high water that we have experienced so far this year. Another repair job to the project behind McDermotts (previously old Deb's Place) has been scheduled for early September however has been put on hold until water levels recede to acceptable working levels. We will be sure to keep you informed on the status of this project via our Facebook page.

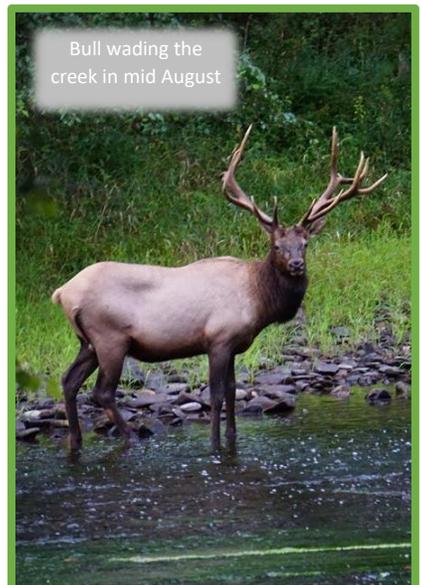
While traveling throughout the valley, you may have noticed posters containing information on the invasive aquatic algae called didymo (also commonly called "rock snot"). With invasive species having adverse effects on more and more streams, the KCWA along with Trout Unlimited (TU) decided to be proactive in helping to prevent the spread to our waters. With these posters, we hope to increase awareness to all those on the stream of the dangers of this invasive species and the terrible impact that it can have on the watershed. If you come across any of these signs, please help us to promote education on invasive species by taking a photo of the sign and sharing it to your social media platforms with the hashtag #KCWatershed.

Although there have been no major projects completed this year there has been a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes to prepare for a very big year in 2019. There are multiple stream improvement projects to be completed with TU which we are very excited about. We will give further details on these projects in the January edition of the newsletter.

Fall leaves off of  
route 144



Bull wading the  
creek in mid August





## Warmwater Fishing



The lake at Alvin Bush Dam is certainly the center of warmwater fishing on Kettle Creek. But look upstream and down for other opportunities.



Sunfish are prolific no one needn't feel guilty about taking a stringer full back to camp for a fish fry.



Warmwater fish can also be found in the flowing water. Sharpen your stalking skills by carefully wading and walking the banks to find them.

# Sunfish

*Mike Klimkos*

This is an odd year for water. We have had lots of it; maybe more than our share. Normally in August, September, and October water levels have dropped and water temperature has soared, and remains high until cool fall nights bring it back down. In a normal year, trout fishing from July first until October is confined to spring creeks where water temperatures stay relatively cold. Freestone streams like Kettle Creek are too warm to fish for the few trout that remain in the stream. That's in a normal year. This year trout fishing in Kettle Creek has been consistent throughout most of the summer.

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*Kettle Creek has a lot of warmwater opportunities and it really doesn't take a radical change in gear*

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So, in a "normal" summer what is a trout angler supposed to do? There are a couple of options. One is to head to the spring creeks down in the limestone valleys. Another is to change the fish you fish for. Kettle Creek has a lot of warmwater opportunities and it really doesn't take a radical change in gear.

From Leidy Bridge downstream to Owl Hollow below the Lower Campground the stream abounds in warmwater fish. They can be caught on the same gear you use for trout with some slight modifications. There are smallmouth bass and largemouth bass to seek. There are also sunfish such as bluegill, redbreast sunfish, pumpkinseed and rock bass. I know what you are thinking, sunfish are for kids. But re-think that. Sunfish can provide a lot of fun and sharpen your angling skills.

If you want to go for sunfish you can use your 3-weight rod, but I recommend going a bit heavier, maybe to a 5- or 6-weight. The reason is because you will need more backbone in the rod to throw the heavier flies. You can still use your #14 Yellow Adams dry fly and #16 Pheasant Tail nymphs, but after catching a few fish the flies will be slimed – if not completely torn apart. Sit down at the tying bench (or head to the local fly shop) and acquire some foam or hardbody poppers. Foam hoppers, crickets and spiders with rubber legs should also be in your fly box. Gather a selection of small streamers and wet flies as well.



A double taper or weight forward floating fly line matched to your rod is the next thing. For leaders you don't have to be as technical as you were with trout. A 7.5 foot leader tapered to 3X is about as refined as you need to go. If you are going to throw large streamers, such as Woolly Buggers or Clouser Minnows, make up your leader accordingly.

One of the great things about fishing for sunfish is "the pressure is off!" Have you ever been trout fishing and gotten so involved in fishing and concentrated so hard on that next trout that you come in at the end of the day and feel stressed? Well that goes away when you are chasing sunfish. In the wide open water you can practice your casting, refine your hook setting, practice your stealthy wading skills, and generally sharpen your techniques that will come in useful when the water temps cool and you return to chasing trout.

You will find as summer winds down the sunfish that have been feeding and growing all summer are hefty and healthy. They can give you quite a battle and they are usually willing to hit a topwater popper or a small (#10 2X Long) streamer. Another added benefit is because they are so prolific you do not have to feel guilty about taking a stringer full home for supper. Get out and enjoy what the lower end of Kettle Creek has to offer.



Casting a topwater fly to some eager panfish is a great way to teach young anglers how to flyfish

## Warmwater Fishing



Foam body poppers with rubber legs are easy to tie (and even easier to purchase) and are top fish producers.



Hardbody cork or hard foam poppers in a variety of sizes may require a 5- or 6-weight rod to properly cast.



If the fish aren't working on top, go subsurface with large wet flies and small streamers.



## KCWA Calendar of Events

KCWA Board Meeting

March 3, 2019 @ 9:00 am

Location TBD

Project Healing Waters Outing and

Banquet

May 3-5, 2019

Cross Fork, PA

KCWA Board Meeting

June 2, 2019 @ 9:00 am

Cross Fork Fire Hall

KCWA Board Meeting

Sept. 8, 2019 @ 9:00 am



Check out this [VIDEO](#) showcasing some of the amazing habitat in the Kettle Creek tributaries.



## Trees and Trout

*Doug Roberts*

There are certain things that just belong together - peanut butter and jelly, summer weather and barbecues, trees and trout, etc.. Trees and trout? As a matter of fact, our state fish, the brook trout, is often referred to as the hemlock trout in many regions of southern Appalachia. To put this into perspective, let's think of the habitat that we find brook trout: small freestone streams nestled between large mountains are some places that come to mind. These hollows at the base of mountains are often shaded for a large majority of the day and as a result shade-tolerant plants tend to thrive - i.e. the hemlock. Why does this have anything to do with brook trout you might ask. To answer this question, let's start at the top and work our way downward.

Hemlocks can grow to sizes exceeding 160 feet tall. From top to bottom they form a very dense canopy which in turn helps to thermally regulate the streams that run beneath them. This is very important for the brook trout, as they require water temperatures to remain cool for survival. Towards the bottom of the hemlock, these slow-growing trees have extensive root systems provide excellent bank retention allowing for channels to run deeper and prevent the banks from eroding away and the stream widening. Additionally, living in such small bodies of water make brook trout susceptible to predation so root systems that extend into the water and help to form undercut banks help to provide cover for these vulnerable fish. Eventually, as nothing in this world lasts forever, these mighty trees fall, some of which fall into the stream. These enormous log jams create fantastic habitat by providing cover as well as forming waterfalls, plunge pools, and eddies.

This symbiotic relationship between the mighty hemlock and the brook trout is known as commensalism, in which the brook trout is dependent on the habitat that the hemlock can provide. My hope is that you learned something from this article and have a new appreciation for our state tree – the eastern hemlock.



## Message from the Chairman of the Board

*Jim Toth*

The Kettle Watershed Board is in its 20th year of existence this year. We have made great strides during those 20 years and have many things yet to accomplish within the watershed. During my 12 plus years of being on the Board, we currently have the strongest Board Members that I can remember. We have personnel from various walks to life and backgrounds. There are several engineers, business leaders, several people from government organizations and even a lawyer (everyone needs a lawyer from time to time). We have both local and non-residents, everyone of us have ties to the Kettle Creek valley. Additionally, we have very strong relationship with several organizations that assist us throughout the year. Trout Unlimited, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife, both Clinton County and Potter County Conservation offices and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

2018 wasn't a good year for stream projects due to the weather conditions and water levels. We used our time getting ready for 2109. Watch out! There a number of projects designed, permitted and shovel ready for next year. You'll be hearing some of that activity in the Newsletter in the spring of 2019, stay tuned.

Your Board has been very active in many other areas as well as stream projects. We welcomed new board member, Doug Roberts who deserves the credit for moving us into the 21st century with our outstanding newsletter and Facebook pages. We can reach more people quickly with our Facebook activities. Additionally, we sponsor Trout in the Classroom projects, support our local sportsman clubs, tree planting throughout the valley, and kids fishing derby's. We just completed our third annual Project Healing Waters Fly

## How to Join / Renew your Membership

To pay online via *credit card*, please visit [www.kettlecreek.org](http://www.kettlecreek.org) and click on Join, Renew, or Donate. From this page, scroll to the bottom and choose your donation amount then follow the prompts to complete your transaction.

To pay via *check*, please download the membership form [HERE](#), fill out the form with your information, and send with your check to KCWA, P.O. B317, Cross Fork, Pa. 17729

For as little as **\$10 a year**, you can help enhance, preserve, monitor, and protect the Kettle Creek Watershed.

Thank you for your support!

## KCWA Newsletter

Are you a writer, historian, or naturalist? Want to be a contributor to the KCWA newsletter and have your articles shared with our subscriber base? I am looking for volunteers to submit articles for future newsletter on various topics within the watershed, ranging from wildlife, recreation, history of the area, and more. If this is something that might interest you, please contact me (Doug Roberts) at [douglas.roberts2011@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.roberts2011@gmail.com) or [kcwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:kcwatershed@gmail.com) and cc my personal email.



## Help Spread the Word!

As an all-volunteer organization, we are entirely dependent on the involvement of our members and supporters. In order to increase involvement we ask that you share this newsletter with others – whether you share via Facebook, forward this email on to one of your contacts, or provide a hard copy to someone. Our members are the lifeblood of this organization so your help is vital to our growth.

Fishing event where we hosted disabled veterans to a three day weekend. We have some new and exciting thing planned for next year so stay tuned.

As you can see we have been very busy and productive. We're planning on enhancing the Board's activities next year and getting bigger and better as we go. I would like to invite you to attend one of our Board Meetings, join us in volunteering for one of our projects, or joining our Board. Each of us are very dedicated and passionate about the Kettle Creek Valley and Kettle Creek stream and its tributaries.

Sincerely,

James Toth  
Chairman of the Board



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*Wishing you an enjoyable fall season!*

*-KCWA Board of Directors*

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## KCWA Outreach Committee

### Doug Roberts

Doug was born in December of 1992 and has been coming up to his camp on Kettle Creek since the spring of 1993. Being a lifelong visitor to Kettle Creek, he has developed a deep love for the watershed. Doug's background in conservation began while pursuing his bachelors in biology from the University of Pittsburgh, where he conducted research on acid-mine drainage reclamation and its effect on freshwater macroinvertebrates. He currently possesses a Masters degree in Bioengineering and works as an Engineer for a medical device company. In his free time, Doug is an avid fly fisherman, archery hunter, hiker, and runs a [YouTube channel](#) with his brother featuring their fly fishing pursuits.



### Mike Klimkos

Mike Klimkos is retired from Pennsylvania's DEP where he worked in the mining programs and later ran the Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program. He has authored, A History of Trout Unlimited and the Environmental Movement: 1959 – 2000, (2003), and compiled and edited The Letort: A Limestone Legacy, (2015) and The Fires of Penn's Woods (2017). He is the past editor of Mid Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide magazine. Mike is a member of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association and the Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association.

When not sitting at a keyboard, Mike can be found in the woods and along the streams of Pennsylvania, which he describes in his blog: [www.mjklimkos.com](http://www.mjklimkos.com) He writes from his home in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and is a lifelong visitor to the Kettle Creek area.

