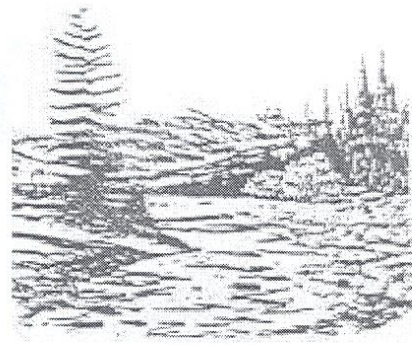


Loyal to the 'Sock

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association Winter 2005



"The way a crow shook down on me the dust of snow from a hemlock tree
Has given my heart a change of mood and saved some part of a day I rued."

Dust of Snow, Robert Frost, 1923

Greetings from Carol

The days are getting longer, and the sun is getting warmer. There have been reports of robins, and the mergansers are back on the creek. In just three weeks, volunteers for the North American Amphibian Monitoring Project will be out listening for wood frogs and spring peepers. **SPRING IS ON THE WAY!**

The LCWA is gearing for another season. At the January directors meeting, we began to prioritize goals and projects for the coming year. We will continue to monitor water quality, and we will revisit the World's End State Park cabin area to help prevent further bank erosion. We will be evaluating the knotweed control program, and work toward our goal of reestablishing plant growth on our stream banks. We will also continue our public meetings and other activities to both educate and entertain.

As you read about our programs and projects, I encourage you to do what you can to become an active steward of our beautiful watershed.

As ever,
Carol Kafer,
President LCWA

NOTICE

meeting dates have
CHANGED.

**Public meetings are scheduled on the
fourth Tuesday of scheduled months.**

March 22 – Wildlife Rehab. & Rescue

May 24 – Our Disappearing Banks

June 28 – Down The Drain

July 26 – PICNIC

September 27 – To be Announced



The LCWA sponsored a guided hike to Jacoby Falls in the Fall of 2004.

STATE OF THE 'SOCK

For the past year, volunteers from around the watershed have been testing the water on a monthly basis. Marc Lewis, Jon Weaver, Herb Wahl, Britt Bassett, Richard Hill, Kevin Partington, Matthew Bennett and Carol Kafer have spent a lot of time and energy collecting and testing water samples. Here are some of the things we have learned:

Minimizing effects of acids: Alkalinity measures the capacity of water to neutralize acids. Alkalinity is an important property because it is a measure of the stream's ability to neutralize acidic pollution from rainfall or waste water and raise the pH. Many of the essential animals that live in the Loyalsock creek can not tolerate acid conditions. Alkalinity measurements of less than 10 ppm indicate a high risk of acidity. From 10 to 20 ppm, the risk of acidification is moderate.

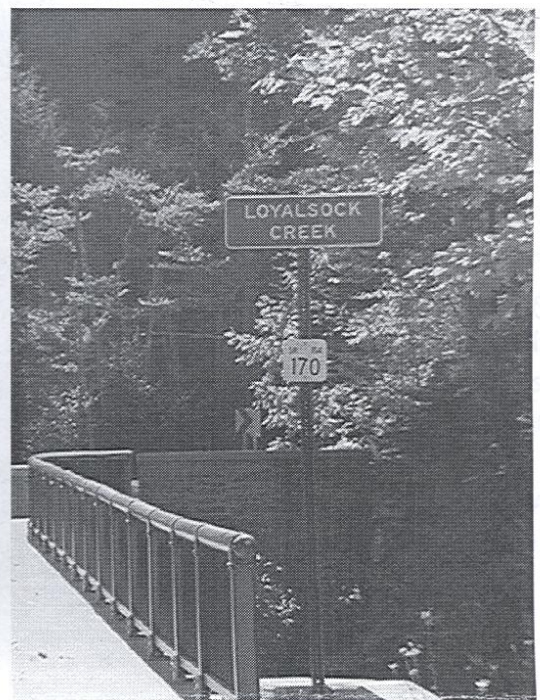
Alkalinity recorded by the DEP at the Loyalsockville bridge from 1961 through 2001 averages 14.2 ppm with a range of 5.5 – 28 ppm. Alkalinity recorded by the LCWA at the same location from 2002 through 2004 averages 23 ppm with a range of 0 – 32 ppm. The increase may be due to a difference in sampling equipment and techniques, or it may be the result of treatment of acid mine drainage in the headwaters. Irregardless, the alkalinity of the Loyalsock Creek is substantially lower than what it needs to be to protect aquatic organisms from acid events.

pH: According the DEP, the acceptable values for pH are between 6 and 9. On the three days of sampling in 2003, the pH at Ringdale Bridge on SR 220, was 6.36, 6.4, and 6.33. Between 1974 and 1982, the average pH at this location was 5.53. Two treatment facilities for acid mine drainage upstream from the Ringdale bridge were completed in late 1999. Since then, the average pH at the Ringdale Bridge is about 6.2. This is quite an achievement because the pH of the water entering the treatment facilities has a pH between 3 and 4. Conclusion: The outflow from abandoned mines in the headwaters of the Loyalsock is a source of acid. Since mine acid helps to deplete existing buffers, we need to continue to treat mine drainage aggressively.

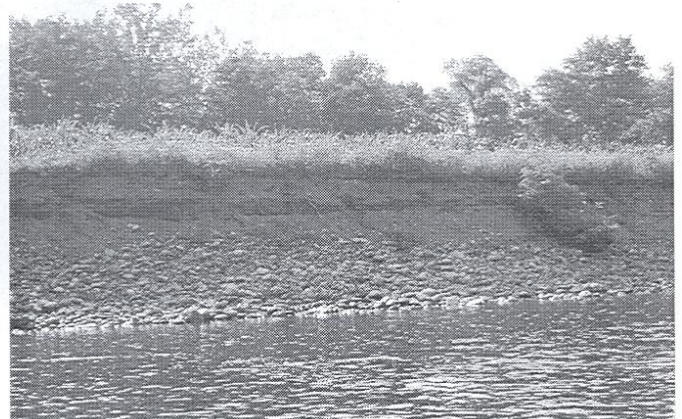
Undesirable Bacteria: Lycoming College Clean Water Institute tested water along the 'Sock twice during the summer of 2003. The only sampling location that had large numbers of fecal coliforms (2400 per 100 ml) was a site on the Little Loyalsock about one mile down stream from Dushore. Those of us who forget to close our mouths while swimming in the 'Sock are greatly relieved.



LCWA Volunteer sprays herbicide on invasive Knotweed plants.



Streams signs on the Loyalsock, Little Loyalsock, Big Bear and Little Bear were obtained by a signage grant program.



Just one of the Loyalsock's disappearing banks



The World's End Project: In the summer of 2004, we joined forces with the State Park and their summer intern Lisa Mulligan to address the eroding bank near the cabin area. The LCWA provided fencing materials and volunteers to help prevent further erosion caused by foot traffic. Lisa then made it her task to educate the park's summer campers on the need to tread lightly in this area of the park. We hope to continue efforts to further protect this stream bank in 2005.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name _____

NEW _____

Address _____

RENEWAL _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

_____ Associate (\$4.00) _____ Sponsor (\$ 50.00) _____ Voting (\$8.00)

I am interested in learning about: _____

I can help with: _____

We appreciate and count on your support and always welcome your comments and concerns. Thank You.

For the Love of Wildlife -

Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue

**Tuesday, March 22, 2005 @ Plunkett's
Creek Fire Hall**

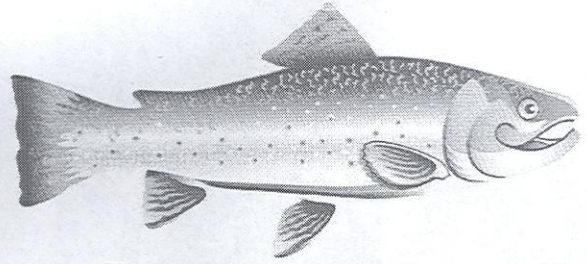
We are proud to announce a special program set for March 22 at 7:00 PM at the Plunkett's Creek Fire Hall in Barbours. Our speakers will be Ed and Barbara "Tink" Reish of the Farragut Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

These are two very special people who have dedicated their lives to the care and rehabilitation of injured wildlife. Through the years, many wonderful stories of survival have evolved from their small center in Farragut. Please join in celebrating their efforts to return animals back to the wild where they belong.

NOTE:

"Our Disappearing Banks" will be the focus of our May 24, 2005 meeting. The program will feature a panel of experts to discuss erosion of our stream banks. We hope to provide landowners with options for protecting their own stream bank property.

2004 in Review



The association held the following public education programs in 2004.

January: Dr. Mel Zimmerman gave an update of levels of fecal material in the 'Sock.

March: "Wise Forest Management" with Dave Aumen. Oops...cancelled due to snow.

April: "Untangling Japanese Knotweed" was presented by Art Grover and Mark Madden of Penn State.

July: LCWA Annual Picnic - Two new directors and no dessert. A good time none the less.

September: We had a howling good time with Jon Wyant, PA Game Commission, and his coyote program.

October: Ruth Rode led an enjoyable hike to Jacoby Falls.

November: We Talked Turkey with David Tilburg.



LCWA
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