

# West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition

## 2010 Project Highlights



**A sampling of organizations,  
achievements, and volunteers**

# West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition

## Partnering Organizations

### **Watershed Associations and Communities**

Anderson Creek Watershed Association  
Babb Creek Watershed Association  
Beech Creek Watershed Association  
Bennett Branch Watershed Association  
Chest Creek Watershed Alliance  
Clearfield Creek Watershed Association  
Deer Creek Watershed Association  
Kettle Creek Watershed Association  
Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition  
Spring Creek Watershed Community  
West Branch Susquehanna Rescue Watershed Group

### **Conservation Districts**

Cambria County Conservation District  
Centre County Conservation District  
Clearfield County Conservation District  
Clinton County Conservation District  
Elk County Conservation District  
Indiana County Conservation District

### **Conservation Groups**

Bilger's Rocks Association  
Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority  
Clearfield County Senior Environment Corps  
Clearwater Conservancy  
Curwensville Anglers Restocking Program  
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
North Central Forest Landowners Association, Inc.  
Pennsylvania Forestry Association  
Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program  
Trout Unlimited  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership  
Woodland Owners of Centre County

### **Trout Unlimited Chapters**

Allegheny Mountain Chapter TU  
God's Country Chapter TU  
Kettle Creek Chapter TU  
Lloyd Wilson Chapter TU  
Spring Creek Chapter TU  
Tiadaghton Chapter TU

### **Businesses**

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation  
Bob's Army & Navy  
Downstream Strategies, LLC.  
F.I.R.E.S (Firefighting Instruction and Rescue Education Services)  
Hughes Engineering  
Jim's Sports Center  
P.J. Bressler Bait and More  
S.R. Bressler Welding & Fabrication  
Quiet Oaks Campground

### **Supporters**

Clearfield-Jefferson Heroin Task Force, Inc.





## Anderson Creek Watershed Association

Anderson Creek cuts a scenic V-shaped gorge through Clearfield county. The lower reach is impacted severely by both coal and clay mine discharges.

Funded by three state grants, ACWA continues to lead preliminary studies of the Korb discharges with an eye toward active treatment. These studies include two areas within the Little Anderson Creek subwatershed.

The second of two streambank stabilization projects was completed in 2009 on Kratzer Run. Kratzer Run is an AMD-impacted tributary to Anderson Creek which continues to support a population of brook trout.

Contact: Malcolm Barnes  
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*Construction of a streambank stabilization structure on Kratzer Run, a tributary to Anderson Creek. Photo courtesy Malcolm Barnes.*

## Babb Creek Watershed Association

Until recently 14 miles of Babb Creek were listed as AMD-impaired. In 2009 a DEP stream survey found that Babb Creek is no longer impacted by AMD. In the fall of 2009 DEP petitioned EPA to remove these 14 miles from its list of impaired streams. Babb Creek is to be removed from the list in 2010. During the mini-symposium last fall, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the event.

Design work to clean up 2.1 miles of Rock Run, impacted by AMD, is nearing completion. The project will be put out for bid with construction to be completed next year. An Energy Harvest grant was received to construct a micro-hydropower plant at the Antrim AMD treatment plant. The project is to be complete by June 2011.

Contact: Bill Beacom (570) 724-7564  
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*Ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate delisting of Babb Creek. Photo courtesy Bill Beacom.*

## Beech Creek Watershed Association

In April 2009 BCWA volunteers planted 4000 white pine and red pine seedlings with crew members from Penn ReLeaf. The planting site was a deforested area between Renovo and Snowshoe.

BCWA has ongoing AML projects in the Contrary Run watershed. BCWA was involved in the preliminary assessment, sampling and survey work in acid rock-impaired Jonathan Run near interstate 80. A passive treatment system is currently being constructed to treat the acid rock drainage caused by the construction of the interstate.

An educational tour for 100 middle school students was held in April 2010. The students toured the Jonathan Run construction site and learned aspects of stream surveying.

Contact: Jamie Walker (570) 660-0382  
jrwalker@pa.net  
www.beechcreekwatershed.org



Jonathan Run emerging from interstate 80. Photo courtesy Ken Flanigan.

## Clearfield Creek Watershed Association

CCWA recently completed the renovation of a passive treatment system originally built by C&K Coal Co. (now bankrupt). The system treats highly acidic AMD (700mg/L acidity, 140mg/L Fe, 25mg/L Al). New compost was placed over the original compost after removal of iron precipitate. A new limestone layer and underdrain were placed in one vertical flow pond. Chemical testing of treated water, in early 2010, showed net alkalinity with no metals.

CCWA also completed monthly flow and water sampling, for a year, at 28 discharges in the assessment of the Muddy Run watershed; preparation of a report and remediation plan is underway. Two projects—West Ferris Wheel and Amsbry—are in the design and permitting stage.

A kids' fishing derby, road & stream clean-

ups and educational programs are ongoing.

Contact: Arthur W. Rose (814) 238-2838 or  
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www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org



Vertical flow pond at the Glasgow site, during final placement of new compost over limestone. Photo courtesy Arthur Rose.

## Chest Creek Watershed Alliance

The Chest Creek Watershed Alliance continues to work with the Cambria County Conservation District to complete the Chest Creek watershed restoration plan.

CCWA sponsored their fourth annual children's fishing derby at Curly Hurd Memorial Park in LaJose in May.

CCWA is working with the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds on capacity building techniques to increase membership in the Chest Creek Watershed Alliance.

Contact: Dan Snyder (814) 674-3718



*Chest Creek at Mahaffey. Photo courtesy Rebecca Dunlap.*

## Deer Creek Watershed Association

DCWA has completed its yearlong assessment of the Deer Creek watershed—the resulting restoration plan is slated to be completed this summer. Supporting biological sampling included three fish surveys as well as macroinvertebrate sampling. Deer Creek has shown unexpected improvement—both biologically and chemically—in the lower reach impacted by AMD. With the preliminary assessment complete, the group is now pursuing design phase projects.

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*Deer Creek, iron stained, at its West Branch confluence. Photo courtesy Aaron Furgiuele.*



## Evergreen Conservancy

Bear Run is a 19.3 square mile watershed in Indiana and Clearfield counties. The main stem supports a near-class A population of brook trout.

A Watershed Renaissance Grant from DEP is funding a series of AMD/AML projects on Bear Run. In February, equipment began the removal of 15,000 tons of high quality coal refuse. This refuse removal will eliminate 1/3 of the iron loading to Bear Run.

The upcoming project phase, which will install a Swedish-bucket lime silo, is slated for completion this fall.

Contact: Tom Clark (717) 238-0426  
tclark@srbc.net  
www.evergreenconservancy.org



Removing coal refuse. Photo courtesy Tom Clark.

## Kettle Creek Watershed Association

The Kettle Creek Watershed Association completed a mine pool stabilization project on an abandoned deep mine preventing a mine blowout that could have released millions of gallons of acid mine drainage to Kettle Creek. The mine has been abandoned for nearly a hundred years and the mine entries have been collapsed for decades. The collapsed mine entries caused water levels to increase in the mine that could have, under the right conditions, resulted in a significant blowout of highly polluted water. By installing an underground water collection system, the water does not build up in the mine.

The association has completed more than a dozen projects that collect and treat polluted water that flows from abandoned surface and deep mines in the lower Kettle Creek watershed. Currently, the group is working on the design for a treatment system that will ad-

dress the first major source of mine drainage to Twomile Run, a tributary to Kettle Creek.

Contact: Dean Mertz (570)524-7926  
deanmertz@evenlink.com  
www.kettlecreek.org



KC204 Mine Opening. Photo courtesy Neil Wolfe.

## Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition

MCWC completed the phase II assessment of the Moshannon Creek watershed from Houtzdale to Osceola Mills in December 2009.

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ascotchman@verizon.net  
www.moshannoncreek.org

DEP awarded MCWC a grant to construct passive treatment systems on the Sandy Ridge tributary to Trout Run. These systems should restore the Sandy Ridge tributary, whose high quality headwaters contain a wild trout population on state game land property.

MCWC installed several multi-log cross vanes in a streambank stabilization project on Beaver Run in Houtzdale.



Searching for signs of life at the mouth of Moshannon Creek. Photo courtesy Rebecca Dunlap.

## West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition & Trout Unlimited

The West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition and Trout Unlimited support the cleanup of abandoned mine drainage throughout the West Branch Susquehanna watershed through the exchange of information, formulation of educational initiatives, and building of wide-spread public support.

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