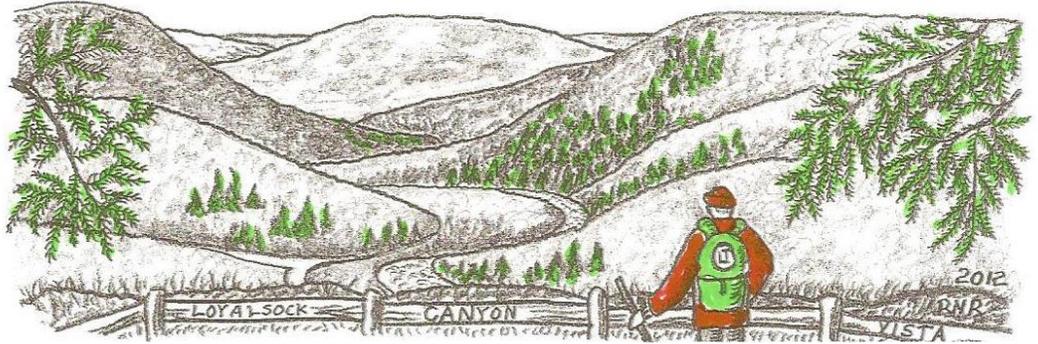


# Loyal to the 'Sock

Volume 1, 2017



“Don’t the people here know that these valleys were actually formed by big floods?” Comment by a visitor from Germany on viewing the damage after a major flood.

Hello, LCWA Members!

I know that some of you don’t want to hear this, but it has to be said. Flowing water forms valleys. Water moving fast down channels accelerates the rate at which the channels widen and deepen. Unfortunately, this is what happened on the western side of the Loyalsock Creek on the night of October 20<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Depending on who did the measuring, 6 to 11 inches of rain fell overnight. Homes, cabins, bridges and many miles of road were destroyed. The engineering company that is designing the new Wallis Run bridge is calling it a One Thousand Year Flood! That means we would expect a flood of this magnitude once in 1000 years. Whew! We have had some seriously bad luck!

So, what do we do now? We do what we have been doing the past 40-some years. We gather the facts, assess the damage, consult with our many partners, make our plans and move forward!

As ever, Carol Kafer

LCWA President

Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, P. O. Box 216, Montoursville, PA 17754

loyal2thesock@gmail.com

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR -- LCWA Open Meeting Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 pm at the Fire Hall in Barbours

At the 2017 Trout Unlimited Watershed Summit, LCWA board members and advisors saw a PowerPoint presentation that left us with our mouths hanging open. Loyalsock Forest District Manager Richard Glinski showed photographs of the havoc created in the Loyalsock State Forest by the October flood. Rich has agreed to give the presentation at our March program. He will be joined by some of our other partners who will share their plans for restoring roads, bridges, trails, habitat, and recreational facilities. It will also be a good time to give input, meet with friends and enjoy some great snacks. Feel free to bring a friend or two. It’s sure to be an interesting evening. **SO...mark your calendar now!** ☺



**Good News!** Hats off to the PA Fish and Boat Commission’s Division of Habitat Management! We were amazed to see how many of their stream bank stabilization/trout habitat structures survived. This structure is near the Jacoby Falls parking lot on Wallis Run Road. The Wallis Run bridge was washed away, but a fair number of these structures are still in place. On Elk Creek in Sullivan County, for some of the structures that were destroyed, the logs and rocks were found nearby downstream and can be reused. Repair on the structures will begin when the roads and bridges needed to access the structures have been repaired. Taking the “long way around” to reach the structures is prohibitively expensive!



Dr. Ty Wagner of Penn State University supervised the tagging of 164 brook trout and monitored their movements from May to December. Preliminary results show that almost all of the trout moved into the main stem of the Loyalsock after spawning in October.



Kudos to the Sullivan County Planning Office and Forksville Borough for creating a 500 foot long access to the Loyalsock just upstream from the Forksville Bridge. It's a nice place to fish, wade, and picnic.

### Flooding Response Streams

1. Mill Run (Karge Road)
2. Lick Run (Kings Creek)
3. Yellow Run (Little Loyalsock)
4. Rock Run (Little Loyalsock)
5. Straby Run (Little Loyalsock)
6. Boar Run
7. Muskie Run
8. Dry Run (Lower Loyalsock, DCNR)
9. Coal Run
10. Lake Run
11. Fall Run (Hoagland)
12. Weed Creek
13. Big Swamp Run
14. Brunnerdale Run
15. Grand Run
16. Sand Spring Run
17. Potter Creek
18. Little Painter Run
19. Level Branch
20. Flag Marsh Run
21. Bear Run
22. Conklin Run
23. Sand Run
24. Red Run
25. Ellis Run
26. Sherman Run
27. Dulohman Run
28. Dry Run (Hoagland Branch)
29. Shingle Run
30. Snake Run

Dr. Jon Niles (Susquehanna University) has been studying how quickly trout and macroinvertebrate populations recovered from the September 2011 flood. In October 2016, ten of the thirty streams were badly flooded yet again. Dr. Niles will continue to sample all thirty streams in order to learn if the date of the flood influences recovery. He predicts that the ten streams flooded in 2016 will recover more slowly. The 2011 flood occurred before the annual spawn while the 2016 flood occurred after spawning had taken place which may have caused most of the eggs to be lost.



PSU doctoral student Shannon White continued her data collection for her study on trout genetic diversity. Preliminary data suggest that the diversity of the genes in a stocked stream is high (think Heinz 57 varieties) while the trout living in streams that are not stocked are genetically more alike. The purpose of this research is to help the PA Fish and Boat Commission manage our trout populations. Shannon will be back again in 2017 to collect more data. Your dues and donations help to support research on the Loyalsock. Special thanks to those of you who helped Shannon haul equipment and collect data. It's hard work!

## Forest Therapy



At a time when the costs of both medical care and medications seem to be going through the roof, we might want to consider some free “self-healing”. There is a growing body of evidence that simply walking in a forest can benefit your health. According to an article in *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* (02/2017), “Numerous studies have shown that spending time in a natural setting lowers your blood pressure and heart rate, relieves muscle tension and decreases stress hormones.” There is also evidence that a walk in the woods can improve mood, energy levels, the quality of sleep, and even accelerate the recovery from surgery or illness. Could our forests be one of the reasons that so many of you are loyal to the Loyalsock Watershed?

## It Happened Again!



In September of 2011, a 500-year-flood cause a rupture in the petroleum transmission pipe line near the Wallis Run bridge.



In November 2016, the photograph from the 2011 flood was published in a textbook devoted to assessing the potential for the release of hazardous materials during natural disasters.



On the night of October 20, 2016, the line ruptured at the mouth of Wallis Run. Sunoco reported

that 55,000 gallons of diesel oil was discharged into the Loyalsock. One of the authors of the textbook, Dr. Elisabeth Kraussman, was not surprised to learn there was another discharge in almost the same place. The people who are permitting the placement of pipelines transporting highly flammable natural gas really need to read that textbook!

## Good News! More Opportunities to Catch Big Trout!

Once again this year, the Loyalsock Creek has been included in the Keystone Select Trout Stocking (KSTS) program. Streams included in this program have become “destination fisheries” across the state. The PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) will be stocking about two hundred 14- to 20-inch trophy trout per mile in what it considers to be “Pennsylvania’s best wild trout waters”. Select Trout stocking will occur in the Loyalsock from the Sullivan – Lycoming County line downstream to Sandy Bottom. The large trout will be stocked during the pre-season and in-season spring stocking periods. The actual stocking dates can be found on the PFBC website. Only 14 streams in PA are included in the KSTS program and the Loyalsock is one of them! Here’s a photo of PFBC Executive Director John Arway fishing at Sandy Bottom.





## Jerry Zeidler Memorial Cane Pole Derby

Without a doubt, the LCWA's most ambitious project is the annual Cane Pole Derby at Rose Valley Lake. Last year we had our largest registration ever = 154 kids! The volunteers last year did a wonderful job, but frankly, we could use some additional help. Before Derby Day, we need gifts of new fishing/outdoor related items for door prizes, or cash donations to offset the cost of everything the kids need to take part in this fun. Last year every child that participated received a prize! On the day of the Derby we will need help with setting up tables and tents, registration, helping kids fish, helping with the food service, and finally taking everything down. This year the Derby will be held on

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day) and runs from about 7 am until 1:30 pm.

**If you think you might be able to help, please put an "X" in the blank on your membership coupon below. Make sure you include your telephone number and someone will contact you with more information.**

### Renewing Your Membership = Supporting Future Projects

For the first newsletter of the year, everyone gets a hard copy of the newsletter, even if you requested that your newsletter be send via email. On the envelope that is mailed to you, next to your last name, is the year when you last paid your dues. If there is no number by your name, it means you haven't paid for quite a while. Sometimes people just forget, so this is our way to remind you. Or, if this is an error in our records, please let us know. We have included an envelope to return your membership coupon. The photographs in the newsletters we send via email are always in **color** so consider the email option. Include your snail mail address in case your email "bounces". Please **PRINT** your contact information **CAREFULLY**.

### 2017 Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association Membership

The LCWA is a 501( c ) 3 non-profit organization whose members care about maintaining and improving the natural resources of the Watershed. To keep up with events in your watershed, become a member and receive our newsletter "Loyal to the 'Sock" and reminders of upcoming events. **If possible, please choose email.**

Renewal     New Member

Please send me newsletters and updates by

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail     Mail

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 – Loyalists (our loyal members)

\$25 – Guardians (of our streams)

\$50 – Protectors (of our forests)

\$100 -- Defenders (of our Watershed)

\$200 – Historians (of our past)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to help with the Cane Pole Derby. Please contact me.**

When you mail something to us, please be sure to address envelope to the **Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association** and not just LCWA. Our mail box is right next to the **Lycoming County Water Authority** (also LCWA) and too much of our mail ends up in the wrong box.

**Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, P. O. Box 216, Montoursville, PA 17754**