



2015 Annual Report

Tradition and change.

The old and the new.

2015 brought both to the BWA.



In 2015, a rain garden bloomed and plans formed for the clubhouse at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve. (Nancy Tully photo)



A campaign against duck feeding aimed to lessen fecal pollution in Brodhead Creek. (Andrea Higgins photo)

We continued some “old” traditions and introduced new ones – but all with the purpose of fulfilling our mission: to protect the environment and water resources in the watershed and to enhance public understanding of water issues.

We continued to “go native” with our spring Native Plant Sale, and we rambled the banks of the Upper Brodhead during our annual River Ramble. We wandered the open spaces and wild places on our Where in the Watershed walks and introduced a new series of grant-funded outdoor adventure in our Get Outdoors Poconos series and website. A new Earth Day celebration was held at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve, while our Issues Committee continued to address conditions adversely affecting water

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ann Foster

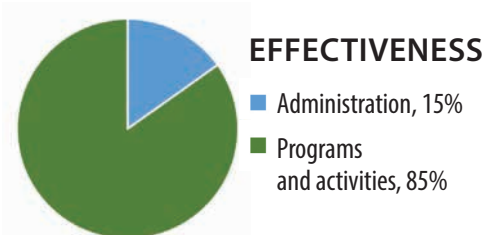
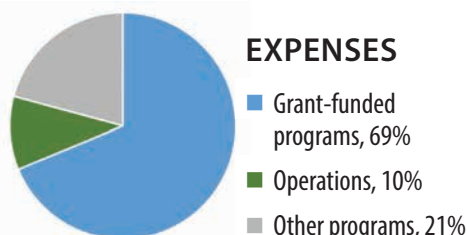
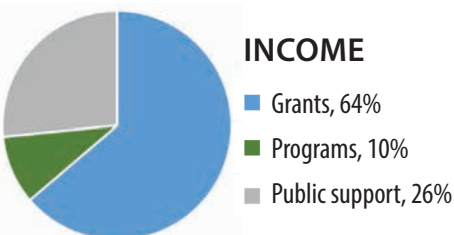
quality within our watershed and worked with community leaders to resolve them.

2015 saw us enter the second year of our Green Infrastructure Project, funded with a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Rain gardens bloomed in Quaker Alley and on the campus of East Stroudsburg High School South. “Don’t feed the ducks” signs sprouted along the banks of the Brodhead, educating the public not feed these water-fouling fowl.

We traveled to the Upper Delaware, training groups and individuals on our Streamwatch program and procedures, getting others off to a start in monitoring water quality within their watersheds.

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2015 BY THE NUMBERS



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BWA

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In October, we gathered for our annual Membership Celebration, honoring others who have contributed to preserving and protecting the natural resources and wildlife in our watershed. We also joined with the Monroe County Bar Association to educate our legislators and legal community on the Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment of our state constitution and its implications in the decisions they make.

You may have bumped into us at the Cherry Valley Festival, StroudFest, Pocono Township Community Day, West End Community Day, Quiet Valley Harvest Festival or the Fall Festival at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Yes, we've been a busy bunch of overachievers. We know how to do a lot with a little, stretching our resources to the limit. Whether it's volunteer hours or monetary support, we make the most of it.



As part of the Green Infrastructure Project, rain gardens were planted at Sarah Street Grill (Quaker Alley, Stroudsburg, pictured here) and at East Stroudsburg High School South. The gardens catch contaminated rainwater from nearby roofs and paved areas, sustaining the native plants and preventing the polluted runoff from reaching the watershed.

But who are we? We are you. Whether you're an Adopt-a-Stream sponsor, a sustaining monthly contributor, or a general member, you are an important part of who we are and what we do. The income we rely upon to conduct our projects, outreach, programs, and activism comes from grants and the financial support of our members and sponsors. Whether you are stuffing envelopes in the office, directing parking at an event, testing a Streamwatch site, or leading a walk ... your volunteer hours make it happen.

Our August full board meeting will again be held on the lawn of For-Evergreen Nature Preserve. We're inviting and encouraging all members to attend the 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1, meeting. Come on out and meet your board of directors, see how things are run, learn the inner workings of your organization.

**We'd love to meet you
– and to thank you.**

The Brodhead Watershed Association is a non-profit organization formed in 1989 to promote and preserve the environment of the Brodhead watershed and the water quality of the Brodhead, Cherry, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries.

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