



WINTER 2011



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**WELCOME NEW
BWA MEMBERS!**

- Joan Eggleston**
- Nolan Emory**
- Hermionne Cadet**
- Carol Kennedy**

Jeri Jewett-Smith 1953 - 2011

Jeri Jewett-Smith, long-time active member of the Brodhead Watershed Association, and President from 2008-2009, passed away at her home in Crescent Lake Estates early Sunday, February 27.

Jeri served on the BWA Board from 2004-2010, and is best remembered for the many people who trace their interest in the BWA to their friendship with Jeri. She inspired numerous students and fellow educators with her passionate interest in the natural world.

Jeri was Director of Environmental Studies at ESU from 2001 to 2010. She had an active scientific career, authoring and co-authoring numerous publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and mentoring over

forty student researchers during her career. She retired in December 2010. One of Jeri's areas of interest was invasive plants in the Brodhead watershed and she was Project Manager of BWA's Invasive Species Management Plan project for three years. During the time many watershed residents learned from Jeri how to better care for their piece of the watershed. Jeri was an inspiring teacher of young and old.

Jeri was born in Dayton Washington and often stated that she spent her first eighteen years trying to get out of Dayton WA and the last forty years trying to get back. She was in the process of making that a reality, purchasing a small piece of property in the foothills of the Blue Mountains outside Dayton and building a micro-cabin for summer visits. A veteran road tripper, Jeri packed up the pets and husband every year to travel America, most often with Dayton, WA as the final destination, but over 33 years of married road tripping she managed to cover most of the lower 48 states. She was intensely interested in environmental conservation, and land stewardship, becoming very involved in the Brodhead Watershed Association, rising to serve as its president in 2008. She injected optimism wherever she applied herself, and that, most of all, will be remembered by those who worked closely with her.

After graduation from Dayton High School in 1971, she attended the University of South Florida, earning B.S. and M.S degrees in Biology. She also married fellow student John S. Smith, from DeLand, FL. Together, they worked several years as research technicians at the University of South Florida Medical School, and then moved to Texas to pursue doctoral training in biology at The University of Texas at Austin, Marine Science Institute. Jeri specialized in physiological ecology of seagrasses, and upon receipt of her Ph.D. she continued her seagrass studies at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the University of Tampa, Texas A&M International University, and finally at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania.



Jeri, right with BWA member Theresa Merli



Rob Sedwin, BWA's VP for outreach and issues - bringing "newcomer" energy to a strong foundation

The Q&A interview below is the first in BWA's new series introducing readers to BWA's Board members, consultants and major supporters. This story includes extracts from a longer recorded interview between BWA President, Pat Kennedy (PMK), and VP Sedwin (RSED) conducted on the day the photo of Rob Sedwin in shirt and tie waded into the McMichael Creek.

PMK: How long have you been in the Poconos?

RSED: My wife Sally and I moved our family to Poconos in 1991. Our oldest daughter Nicole was in 4th grade, the youngest daughter, Hayley, in kindergarten.

PMK: Where had you been living?

RSED: We had been living in Plainfield, NJ in Union County – a small deteriorating old early century resort city a short train ride from NYC.

PMK: What drew you to the area?

RSED: I was in the outdoor sports industry and the Poconos fit our need for location and lifestyle. The area was a cleaner, healthier, and friendlier. Still convenient to NYC and Philly metros, but housing was less expensive, educational opportunities were better for the girls. It was more of a playground.

PMK: As we ask visitors to the BWA website -- What's your "watershed" address?

RSED: We are in the Pocono Creek part of the watershed near Camelback. We found a neighborly place we love and could afford -- a cedar-sided townhouse community. One of those closed loop developments built in the late 80-90s like a village, with power underground. We can walk out the door and hike or Mountain Bike in a relatively undisturbed natural area – we see bear, deer, turkeys and a variety of other local wildlife. It's a relatively short drive down a windy country road to Tannersville.

PMK: What changes have you noticed in the region since 1991?

RSED: When we arrived and for perhaps

too many years after, what I noticed was relatively limited municipal involvement in development in the County. For example, in the construction of our townhouses, my impression was there was an approval of the general plans, but no real post-construction reviews.

I've also seen a population explosion – people moving to Monroe County from urban areas, many for reasons like my family's, but many with little or no experience with the out-doors. I know it is putting stress on the watershed in lots of complex ways. But sometimes, I am shocked at the simple stuff -- people dropping trash along the roads, water and beer bottles on wooded trails, running ATVS through the creeks eroding banks. I don't think this behavior comes from harmful intent -- more of a lack of education about what I'll call outdoor manners.

PMK: Why did you join the BWA and agree to serve on the Board?

RSED: Well, first, I truly love the environment here. Until I joined BWA and learned more, I didn't realize how pristinely our regional waters have been maintained and how persistently some people have been fighting to keep them clean. Even with all the growth, we have one of the greatest water resources in the country.

Second, I wanted to be part of the select group who maintained that, who set some standards in place, and raised levels of stewardship. We have this valuable asset, now we have to maintain it. Some who live here may not yet realize its importance to the value and quality of their homes. If we lose our natural environment, we might as well just be Newark, NJ or some other overgrown urban area.

Third, I saw a lot of people moving here that wanted this kind of outdoors experience, but did not understand the kind of invest-

ment that's truly needed. I realized that without groups like BWA, our county conservation district and some others we work with this could all slip through our fingers.

Fourth, what I'll call my sense of family and belonging came out. My children like it here. One lives in Philly, but loves to come back because of the playfulness we have here, the fun, the cleanliness, the chance to get out of the city; the other one wants to stay and live here. What am I going to leave them? And what are they going to have for their children when they have some?

Even though I may not look like it, I have a lot of personal attachment to the earth. I would go crazy if I worry about where we are going to be 500 years from now, but right now, in this lifetime, in this place, I want to do my small piece. The way I see it, if we all get involved, it creates a big movement. This will hopefully guarantee that our ancestors will enjoy what we have now.

PMK: What do you see as your major contributions to BWA?

RSED: Well, I'm an out-going, high energy, Type A kind of person. I've met a lot of different kinds of people here that want to get things done and I have the energy to make it happen. I see myself bringing some new energy to an organization that's been around for more than 20 years. As a relative newcomer, I ask questions about things people who have been involved for a long time take for granted.



Calendar of Events

March 26, 9:00 to 3:00

Pond & Lake Management Workshop – Workshop focused on management strategies for ponds & lakes, including water quality, leaks, wildlife, fisheries, etc.

Monroe County Conservation District Offices - 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 (570) 629-3060

April 9 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Yankee Run Stream Clean-up Day. A joint project of the PHLT and the BWA supported by the Borough of Mt. Pocono, Monroe County Waste Management Authority and Litter Control project. Meet at Rt 940 and Crestwood Drive, Mt. Pocono.

April 22, Campus Location and times TBA

ESU Earth Day and Monroe County History program

The Brodhead Watershed Association, in partnership with the Monroe County Historical Society, will sponsor a lecture at East Stroudsburg University about the history of African Americans in Monroe County.

April 24, 1:00 pm to 4:00

Hike along McMichael Creek with Don Miller, sponsored by Pocono Heritage Land Trust.

An ancient forest along the extremely steep slopes of the McMichael Creek prevented the complete clearing of trees common in the early days of Pennsylvania logging. Enjoy an easy walk of about four miles traveling from fields to old growth forests along this beautiful waterway. Program is free with suggested donations to the Pocono Heritage Land Trust's Preserve Management fund. Meet at Old Mill in Sciota. More info at www.phlt.org

April 30, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Seedling Sale and Make a Difference Day, Be the Green you wish to see in the world. Learn to make "Green" cleaners, how to save water and conserve energy in your home etc. Fun for adults and kids.

Monroe County Conservation District, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 (570) 629-3060

April 30

Drug Take Back Day - Visit www.dea.gov to find a site near you.

May 13-14 –BWA Annual Plant Sale times TBA

BWA's popular Native Plant Sale will take place this year at Northampton Community College, Tannersville campus on Friday evening, May 13 and Saturday morning, May 14

June 18-25 17th Annual Delaware River Sojourn

Mark your calendars for 8 days of paddling, camping, and camaraderie on our wild and scenic river. For general inquiries, please contact Kate O'Hara at (609) 883-9500 ext. 205 or via email at delawaresojourn@gmail.com www.riversojourn.com

Controversial Named Creek Creates Search for a Historical Local African American

Mark your calendar on Earth Day for an important event. The Brodhead Watershed Association, in partnership with the Monroe County Historical Society, will sponsor a lecture at East Stroudsburg University about the history of African Americans in Monroe County. The lecture will be part of an all-day symposium on Monroe County history on Friday, April 22, 2011.

BWA's involvement in the program stems from our interest in renaming Sambo Creek which flows through Smithfield Township and East Stroudsburg Borough. We want to involve the community in the process of picking a new name for the creek.

We hope that finding out the names of historical persons of African American descent who lived in Monroe County at the time the creek was named in the 1800s will provide a better name than the current name.

A petition was filed with the United States Geological Survey in 2008 suggesting "Reservoir Run" as a new name inspired by the fact that Sambo Creek provides the water supply for East Stroudsburg's reservoir. The origin of the name Sambo Creek is unknown. It is not listed on the 1874 Beers Atlas Smithfield Township map, but there is a "Samboes Creek" listed on the 1874 Beers Atlas map for the Borough of East Stroudsburg.

Bob Labar, a BWA board member and teacher at JT Lambert middle school takes his students to test the water quality on Sambo Creek. When Bob explained the history of the word "Sambo" as a racial slur to his students, they decided to help find a new name. One idea is to find the name of a prominent African-American from Monroe County to name to stream after.

Please join us on Earth Day for the lecture at ESU to learn more about African-Americans in Monroe County history and support our efforts to give this important stream a name we can all be proud of. Details about the time and location of the lecture will be forthcoming.

The Levee Loop Trail: A Great Multi-Municipal Link

By Tim Herd

The beautiful Brodhead Creek of the Poconos braids a picturesque boundary in eastern Monroe County between the twin boroughs of Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg. Its abundant natural assets form the core of a growing greenway and trail system rich in shared purposes, resolve, and resources.

Natural as it is, however, it wasn't always the unifying feature it is today. Back in 1955, the greatest calamity ever to hit the Stroudsburgs convened when two hurricanes delivered a one-two punch within one week. On August eleventh, Hurricane Connie deposited over 10 inches of rain in a 48-hour period, raising the Brodhead to flood stage. Just seven soggy days later, Hurricane Diane dumped another 11.25 inches in a 36-hour period with disastrous results.

Angry, churning, wild water rampaged down the stream channel overnight, snatching and hoisting trees, homes, ten-ton boulders, bridges, dams, and everything else in its obliterating path, while residents fled for their lives in the darkness. North of Stroudsburg, a 30-foot-high flood wave disintegrated the facilities of a camp and swept away 46 campers; only eight survived. In East Stroudsburg, another 32 people drowned as the floodwaters ripped homes apart in Maplehurst Flats behind the High School. More lost their lives waiting for a ride after an evening game of bingo at the Fire Hall. The Stroudsburg-East Stroudsburg Interborough Bridge was swept away.

In its deadly aftermath, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a levee system to protect the people from the torrential tendencies of the Brodhead Creek, with the top of the dyke built to the level of the floodwaters at its extreme crest.

Now in place for almost 50 years, the levee has become an unquestioned part of the landscape. Visitors to East Stroudsburg's popular Dansbury Park enjoy its pool, pavilions, picnic tables, and ball fields without considering—or even viewing—the still-bountiful Brodhead Creek on the other side of the 10-foot high, grass-covered slope.

While the levee's original purpose was to protect the boroughs from the catastrophic effects of nature, the levee also separated residents from each other and their connections to their natural environment. The first Director of the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission, Chuck Reid, recognized the potential of the levee as a great multi-municipal link, unifying people, parks, programs, trails, communities, and life. He is quoted as saying, "Creating a trail system on the levee not only reconnects the residents and visitors to the defining natural feature of the region, the Brodhead Creek, but also promotes a vibrant and healthy community."

The Levee Loop Trail Master Plan, publicly funded through the regional Commission and a grant from DCNR, identified the natural assets, potential access points, physical facilities, and links to other educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities within the regional greenway system. Engineers and Landscape Architects from Buchart-Horn, Inc. completed the plan in 2005.

At its full development, the Levee Loop Trail will extend approximately 10 miles from Glen Park in the south to the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority at Stokes Avenue in the north. Presently, about four-and-a-half miles of the central portion is in use for walking, biking, a trail run every September. Easy connections to many other destinations, including: parks, playgrounds, skate parks, and many other noteworthy public, historic and community facilities. The Dansbury Trailhead and Overlook, includes an access road, parking area, stairway, benches, bike racks, scenic overlook, and ADA-compliant ramps to the top of the levee.

Every day now, residents are traversing the levee, for recreation, as a commuting trail and communing with nature on the Levee Loop Trail—coming full circle to reconnect with their land, their community, and each other.



Centered on the beautiful Brodhead Creek, the multi-municipal Levee Loop Trail system connects public parks, schools, and other destinations within the Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenway.

The Delaware River is Pennsylvania's River of the Year for 2011

Each year, the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) and the Pa. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) choose a Commonwealth river to be named the River of the Year (ROTY). This honor, bestowed annually since 1983, helps raise awareness about the importance of rivers, their conservation needs, and their recreational and economic impact on watershed communities.

Chosen for the first time through a public vote, the Delaware bested five other candidates in an online contest that saw more than 10,000 ballots cast from across the state. The Delaware received 2,520 votes.

"The Delaware River is the longest un-dammed river east of the Mississippi and is steeped in history, diverse in resources, and is vital to protect," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary John Quigley said. "Its waters serve the needs of more than 15 million people from four different states, including more than 5 million Pennsylvanians. It boasts the largest freshwater port in the world, as well as threatened and endangered species, and a thriving tourism industry.

"A goal of the River of the Year designation is to raise awareness of the river and its conservation needs. The public voting format used to nominate and select the River of the Year for the first time this year certainly generated local enthusiasm for conservation and recognition of the importance of our waterways," Quigley said.

A number of events are planned through the year to celebrate the Delaware and its tributaries, including the Brodhead watershed. A major feature will be the annual Delaware Sojourn which will take place this year June 18-25. The Sojourn is an **eight**-day paddling trip on the wild and scenic Delaware River, combining canoeing/kayaking, camping, educational programs, historical interpretation, and more. It is for novice to experienced paddlers, or those who are simply curious about the outdoors. Participants can sign up for the whole event or for the section or day(s) of their choice.

To learn more about the Sojourn, and other River of the Year activities, visit: <http://www.riversojourn.com/>

2 New Books by BWA Members

A Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of Northeastern Pennsylvania, a comprehensive reference and guide to designing with native plants is now available through author and BWA member, Geoffrey Mehl. Mehl comes from several generations of gardening enthusiasts and turned to native plants as problem solvers for difficult landscape situations as well as environmental responsibility. This reference and discussion about how to plan and develop landscape designs using native plants, focuses on Monroe, Carbon, Pike and Wayne counties of Pennsylvania. It covers 2,150 species of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials and annuals, 100 kinds of regional soils, and 135 ecological communities with detailed plant associations for each. Also included are the 540 protected plant species in Pennsylvania, invasive species of local concern, plant sources and additional resources for native plant enthusiasts. Order at www.pennystone.com or www.amazon.com

Tim Herd, BWA Board Member and Executive Director, Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission and now author includes a glimpse of everything there is to know about the subject in **Maple Sugar: From Sap to Syrup: The History, Lore, and How-to Behind This Sweet Treat**. With the fascinating history of maple sugaring and do-it-yourself instructions for identifying and tapping backyard maples, readers will be ready for sugaring season with all the knowledge they need.

Intriguing photography captures the glory, past and present, of maple sugaring, and full-color illustrations identify different maple tree varieties. More than 20 recipes for old-fashioned treats and savory dishes from maple nut bread to maple-glazed ham.



Water Facts: "H₂Ology"

SAFE DRINKING WATER: how land and water are linked in Monroe County

Safe drinking water depends on open, undeveloped land – forests, meadows and fields. In undeveloped areas, snow, rain-water, stormwater runoff – even runoff that carries some heavy-duty contaminants – slowly percolates down through the soil, being cleaned along the way by nature's own "water treatment plant," the earth itself.

Monroe County's ten-year "Open Space" initiative has protected 14,000 acres of important land that works constantly to protect the water quality of the Brodhead Creek and other streams in the county as well as your drinking water.



During the same ten years that these lands were protected, 38,000 acres of Monroe County were developed into shopping malls and housing developments' roadways & driveways and other impervious surfaces. Open Space acquisitions do not slow development and landowners who choose to sell to developers are free to do so.

Ironically, developers often tout our safe drinking water, recreational opportunities, and the high quality of life provided by our beautiful wooded countryside. Attractive areas attract better businesses – and supporting it all is safe drinking water.

Rob Sedwin continued

I think I can widen popular understanding of the importance of the group's goals. Among other things, BWA is known as a watchdog. If you are seen as only a watchdog, people may raise a skeptic eye—thinking you are going to be annoying or get in the way. That is why we are trying to educate as we keep an eye on the water.

BWA has a strong foundation; we're not just startup; we've done credible things, we can now build on that brand. I would like to take advantage of that solid foundation and move BWA to the next level of impact.

PMK: What advice do you have for other people who share your thinking in this regard?

RSED: We all need to set an example, set standards of environmental culture. Don't be pushy, just be a leader through example. Become a part of something, join an organization. We don't all have to have to do hands on work. Just become more aware of the small things that make a difference. Making your neighbors aware of this and the need to be more sensitive to how our big and small actions impact our water. To change to a direction that sustains the life we all came here to enjoy. If everybody takes little steps, it becomes a big march.

We need to keep educating in lots of different ways. If we are opening space or creating walking trails along our creeks, we should give the public the knowledge that the opportunities are there and available for them, and to be conscious of how easy they can be lost. But we need to be mindful of the need for education -- there should be signage, you know the old saying .. "take only pictures, leave only footprints. Please keep our water ways, our open space clean and healthy."

I could almost be a zealot and say people should be required to take a test and get certification to use the outdoors, so that they are aware of what impact they leave.

Encourage a Friend to Join Today!!!

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Preferred method of BWA receiving news & info:

Regular Mail Email Both

Circle One:

Family \$30 Individual \$15 Senior \$10

Student \$5 Contributor \$100

Adopt-A-Stream Site \$250

Return, with your check to:

Brodhead Watershed Association
Box 339, Henryville, PA 18332

The official registration and financial information of Brodhead Watershed Association may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania

SAVE THE DATE!

BWA's popular Native Plant Sale will take place this year at Northampton Community College, Tannersville campus.



Friday evening, May 13 and Saturday morning, May 14. The Friday evening sale will be for members only - you can join now, or join at the sale. Members will get a 10% discount on Friday night and Saturday. Volunteers are always needed to help with set-up, clean-up and on days of the sale. To volunteer, send an email to:

brodheadwatershed@verizon.net and tell us what day(s) you are available. Thank you!

Common Waters Fund – Helps Forest Landowners

A new program to help forest landowners in the upper Delaware watershed has just begun. The Common Waters Fund will provide funding to develop Forest Management Plans and practices to improve the health of forests.

You can learn more at their website, www.commonwatersfund.org, or by talking with Victor Motts at (570) 629-3060.

JT Lambert Students Helping to Keep the Creek Healthy

Seventh grade students at J.T. Lambert Intermediate School are at it again – testing water in the creek behind East Stroudsburg High School, that is. Once a month the students go by bus to the High School to test water quality and gather bug samples to identify back at their school lab.

BWA board member, Bob LaBar, and his fellow seventh grade teachers – Mary Predmore, Sue Dreibelbis, Jasmine Sandy, Patti Fishler, Jen Malsch, Trish O'Brien and Linda Kelly, piloted the program last year, with help from BWA Streamwatch volunteer Amy Albert. The data they collected, as well as other info about the community service learning program, were posted on a student created website at <http://www.esasd.net/itl/servicelearning/servicelearning/Welcome.html>

This year the program garnered support from PPL's Project Earth program. The grant monies will be used to purchase new nets, testing agents, waders, collection tools and an HD camcorder. This equipment will be used for continued monitoring of the creek. The HD camcorder will be used as an extension of the project, allowing the students to teach other kids from around the country, via the Internet, how to protect their own local watershed!

Want to contact us?

Phone: 570-839-1120 **Email:** brodheadwatershed@verizon.net **Web:** www.brodheadwatershed.org



Brodhead Watershed Association

Box 339
Henryville, PA 18332

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.