



Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2017

Make the most of eastern creeks

Aug. 6 River Ramble will explore eastern side of watershed

Come out to find the hidden gems just off the beaten path of the Marshalls Creek watershed – explore open space, parks, waterfalls and even discover how mulch and soil are “made.”

Join us for the annual River Ramble, an eco-tour of the Marshalls and Pond creeks, at 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6, starting at the Middle Smithfield Township offices. Refreshments at an after-Ramble party are included.

Participants will tour natural highlights along a mapped driving route, each spot staffed by some of the area’s finest naturalists eager to share their knowledge and love of the watershed.



ABOVE: Resica Falls, one of the stops on this year’s River Ramble. (Photo by Steven Natiello)

Other stops will feature a talk on the natural history of the valley, a beaver created pond/creek system, a jaunt at Judy Putek Park with a renowned

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River Ramble

WHEN: 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6; after-party 4 to 5 p.m. Optional rain barrel workshop at noon for additional fee.

WHERE: Start at Middle Smithfield Township office, 147 Municipal Drive, East Stroudsburg.

DONATION: \$10, members; \$15, nonmembers. \$2 discount for pre-registration. Children under 12, free. \$30 for rain barrel workshop includes one free admission to Ramble.

REGISTER (by Aug. 2): 570-839-1120, info@brodheadwatershed.org; or brodheadwatershed.org/riverramble.html

NEW GRANT FROM OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

BWA map project to help guide municipalities toward land, water in need of preservation

By CAROL HILLESTAD

Good decisions need good information. The more you know when you buy something – a house, a car, even a new phone – the more likely you are to make a good choice.

Good decisions about protecting

land need good information, too.

Providing that information is the goal of a new partnership between BWA and Monroe County Planning Commission, with funding from the Open Space Institute, and guided by a project team which includes representatives from Pocono Heritage Land Trust, The Nature Conser-

vancy, Wildlands Conservancy, Monroe County Conservation District, North Pocono CARE and Aquashicola-Pohopoco Watershed Association, Brodhead Creek Regional Authority, and municipalities such as Smithfield and Stroud townships.

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GUIDE

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A municipal guide to protecting land that protects water

Many municipalities in the county have open space acquisition funds, but need information to use those funds wisely — and to explain the “why” of their decisions to constituents.

The reports, maps, and data this project provides will help officials do just that. The research will pinpoint properties that would provide the most protection for water quality and quantity if they are protected from development.

“The study will look at properties throughout the county, not just within the Brodhead watershed,” says Bob Heil, BWA executive director. “We hope this way of looking at water issues — taking into account both political boundaries and watershed boundaries — will be a model for other watershed organizations.”

The summary report, “Protecting Land That Protects Water,” will set out the findings of the technical studies in plain English. It will include a matrix of lands important for drinking-water protection, stream flow and quality, and groundwater recharge. Detailed maps will make clear the best land for protecting water.

The work will be completed by late 2018, and delivered to county and municipal elected officials — with specific acquisition recommendations for each. “Wherever possible, we will arrange in-person meetings to review the report findings and answer questions,” Heil said.

Jackson, Paradise, Smithfield and other municipalities have open space funds available. Some have asked for exactly this kind of information. Now, they’ll have concrete guidance for prioritizing how to use open space funds, based on water values — preserving quality and quantity of both groundwater and surface water.

The best of busy summers

I hope you are reading this after having just hiked your favorite open space, paddled a local water body or while a native brook trout is nibbling on your line.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Bob Heil

In the “behind the scenes,” we continue to plan our strategies and activities for our next phase of the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, funded by the William Penn Foundation. Our Issues Committee is commenting to the state Department of

All of these are part of the BWA mission of clean water.

Since our last newsletter, we have promoted clean water through a variety of activities. We inspired people to get their boots wet and practice simple “citizen science” with Streamwatcher training, educated people at Earth Day and other public events, and sold native plants to the most enthusiastic community of gardeners I have ever met.

Environmental Protection on the renewal of the Mount Airy wastewater treatment plant permit, and we are monitoring a discussion of Buck Hill Water Co. selling water to a bottler outside of our watershed.

I am witnessing a lot of enthusiasm and progress in all aspects of the BWA, and hope all members will get involved on committees or events.



BLOOMIN' SUCCESS

BWA's annual Native Plant Sale flourished again on June 9-10.

More than 600 native plants and shrubs found new homes that day, thanks to the environmentally responsible and enthusiastic buyers who flooded into the sale at Pocono Township Fire Company's “carnival building” in Tannersville.

The sale raised \$3,600+ for one of Brodhead Watershed Association's biggest annual fundraisers.

Many volunteers helped make the sale a great success:

Thank you!

PPL grants \$3,000 to BWA

PPL has granted \$3,000 to Brodhead Watershed Association for its ongoing water monitoring program.

BWA has about 70 Streamwatchers monitoring sites throughout the Brodhead watershed. They test the water monthly using chemical kits and record their visual observations.

“Each day throughout the areas we serve, everyday heroes at nonprofit organizations roll up their sleeves and go to work to lift up our communities,” said Ryan Hill, president of the PPL Foundation. “The PPL Foundation is proud to support the tremendous work they do.”



ABOVE: BWA President John Smith presents an Adopt-A-Stream plaque to Robin Petras of Strauser Nature's Helpers.

RIGHT: Smith with Charlie Trapasso, owner of Desaki.

Sponsor (\$300) and Steward (\$500) donations go toward the purchase of testing kits that our volunteers use to monitor the watershed.

If you would like to support the Streamwatch program, contact the BWA office at info@brodheadwatershed.org or call 570-839-1120 for information.

Two new Adopt-A-Stream sponsors

Two new Adopt-A-Stream sponsors – **Desaki Restaurant** of Swiftwater and **Strauser Nature's Helpers** of East Stroudsburg – have joined the BWA family as Adopt-A-Stream sponsors.



GOLF FOR GOOD CAUSE

BWA and Pocono Heritage Land Trust present a golf tournament to support the creation of the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve.

8:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19
Country Club of the Poconos,
East Stroudsburg



Only \$75! Great prizes!
Shotgun start,
scramble format.
Register now!
Call Mia at
570-223-8920, ext. 116.
Information at
ccppgolf.com/forevergreen/

Fundraiser 5K at ForEvergreen

Join the race to help build Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, with the **Creek 5K** at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve, Analomink! On Saturday, Aug. 12, registration starts at 7:30 a.m., with race time at 8:45 a.m. Preregister by Aug. 1 and save \$5 off the \$25 registration fee. More info at runsignup.com.

Welcome, new members!

Joanne Ackers of Scotrun; Richard Croll of East Stroudsburg; Tim & Patty Fretz of Stroudsburg; Julie Golin of East Stroudsburg; Barbara Harteis of Tobyhanna; Allison & Craig Heinsohn of Bangor; Mike & Margie Heitman of East Stroudsburg; Christine Hoban of Bangor; Kinnea Keating of Staten Island, N.Y.; Laura Kessler of East Stroudsburg; Mark & Kathleen Kilker of Saylorsburg; Homer Lee of East Stroudsburg; Christopher Lew of Stroudsburg; Elizabeth, Gary & Kelly Lewis of Stroudsburg; Cheryl Lynott of Cresco; Dalton Marsh of Stroudsburg; Mary McIsaac of Stroudsburg; Jim Olivo of Carlstadt, N.J.; Linda Pagonis of Scotrun; Jill Perry of East Stroudsburg; Susan Polacek of Saylorsburg; Tarah Probst of Stroudsburg; Wilma Ramirez of Effort; Dave Rich of Sciota; Cortney Ronco of East Stroudsburg; Regina Schedler of Scotrun; Linda Schwartz of Stroudsburg; Sue Simister of Delaware Water Gap; Susan Stalcoskie of Saylorsburg; Lisa Steinberger of Tobyhanna; Renee Weidman of Bangor; Penny Wicks of Mountainhome; Tom Widing of Buck Hill Falls; Lewis Wolff of East Stroudsburg; Margaret Zukawski of Blakeslee.

Children's hiking series in planning stages

BWA has received a Dr. Claus Jordan Endowment Grant from Lehigh Valley Health Network Pocono Foundation, which will enable BWA to expand its popular Get Outdoors Poconos hike series to families with children. The age-appropriate walks will teach young ones about clean water and healthy living. Stay tuned for specific details.



CALENDAR



MEET WITH BWA'S BOARD

6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7

BWA's board meeting is open to the public at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve. Get to know the board and BWA. For information, email info@brodheadwatershed.org or call 570-839-1120.

HIKE AT CHERRY VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

(a free Get Outdoors Poconos hike)
10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19

Come see the first stages in the transformation of an old golf course

into a nature preserve. Part of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the 193-acre property offers easy-to-moderate walking along the old fairways, where habitat is being restored along the creek. This land protects Cherry Creek and drinking water. To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727. Email info@brodheadwatershed.org or see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

EXPLORE PARADISE-PRICE PRESERVE TO THE BRODHEAD

(a free Get Outdoors Poconos hike)
Saturday, Sept. 23

Check brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos for details as the date draws closer.

Save the date!

The annual BWA Members & Friends Celebration (and the popular silent auction) will be held Friday, Sept. 29, at the historic Pocono Manor.

RAMBLE

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bug expert, the secrets of operating the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Leaf Composting Facility, and little-known facts about the area's geography.

Ramblers will also visit public areas on the Resica Falls Scout Reservation to see the falls and hear about the camp's conservation efforts.

In an optional pre-Ramble workshop for \$30, participants can learn about the finer points of building a rain barrel. Participants will receive a free rain barrel to take home, as well as one free admission to the Ramble.

Afterward, enjoy good food and conversation at the traditional after-Ramble party, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Resica Park pavilion behind Resica Elementary School.

Families are welcome!

SPONSORS ARE NEEDED for the River Ramble on Aug. 6. Contact the BWA office at info@brodheadwatershed.org or call 570-839-1120 for information.

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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