

THREE NEW MEMBERS JOIN BWA BOARD AT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION, OCTOBER 2, 2015

DOUG LEIES was born in Stroudsburg and grew up in the Swiftwater area. As an outdoorsman, Doug considers the Poconos a natural wonder, and has a great appreciation for its unique environment. Doug planted his first Christmas tree while still in grade school.

After graduating from Penn State with a degree in telecommunications, Doug spent the next 14 years working in the television industry, where he saw first-hand the long-lasting effects that the mining industry had on the water supply in central Pennsylvania. Many streams ran orange from acid runoff, and several communities lacked even the basic necessity of potable drinking water.

Returning home in 2003, he saw that the Pocono area had undergone significant change related to growth. Doug's work in various fields of construction, home furnishings, and now industry have allowed him to see the bigger picture of how we all interact, yet are all part of the same whole.

On the side, Doug runs a Christmas Tree Farm in Swiftwater and says the lessons learned from tree farming are just as germane to that of our communities: Growth is necessary, but so is the environment in which that growth takes place. Doug wants to work with BWA and other area like-minded organizations, inspiring good stewardship of this special environment we all share.

ROBERT HEIL Jr. is a native of Monroe County, having lived his entire life in the Saylorsburg portion of Hamilton Township. Bob holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Penn State and recently completed his master's in biology from East Stroudsburg University. When Bob isn't at his environmental job in New Jersey or following the Nittany Lions, his hobbies are too numerous to mention, but you will find him somewhere outdoors for all of them.

Bob joined BWA in 2013 while helping to coordinate the Lake Creek tire cleanup. He is also a Streamwatcher and looks forward to bringing his energy and enthusiasm for conservation issues to the BWA Executive Board.

FRANK ALLEN graduated with a Ph.D. in English in 1969 from the University of Maryland and taught for 35 years at a variety of colleges and universities, including Moravian College and the State University of New York, Cobleskill. He taught English at Northampton Community College, Monroe Campus, for 15 years and retired in 2010 to spend time in community service.

Volunteer work has included: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the Road Scholars, Pocono Outdoor Club, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, The Older Adult Learning Center of ESU, and Monroe County Rail Authority. For five years, he wrote a column, "Pocono Outlook," for Dignity, a supplement to the Pocono Record. He serves on the Monroe County Open Space Advisory Board, the Greenway Committee of the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission, the Liberty-Delaware Water Gap PA Extension Steering Committee (part of the 9/11 National Memorial Trail) and the East Stroudsburg Tower Society.

A member of many hiking clubs, Frank leads hikes and does trail maintenance throughout the region. He has hiked more than 600 miles of the Appalachian Trail, completing the trail in seven states. Many of these miles were completed when he was 70-plus. Frank and his wife, Heide, a registered nurse, have lived in East Stroudsburg since 1995.