

STREAM LINES



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2009

SAVE THE DATE:

**APRIL 25 -
NATIVE PLANT
SALE**

**MAY 24 - CHERRY
VALLEY RIVER
RAMBLE**

**LATE MAY -
INVASIVE PLANT
ID & REMOVAL
WORKDAY**

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR
ALL DATES!**

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Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge

By: Ann Fetherman

December 23, 2008 brought welcome news to conservationists. Rep. Paul Kanjorski announced the establishment of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge in southern Monroe County. The boundaries within which the US Fish and Wildlife Service may purchase land from willing sellers include most of Cherry Valley and nearly all of Cherry Creek, more than 20,000 Cherry Valley National Wildlife refuge encompasses rare ecosystems, plants and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act and other species of concern. The refuge boundary extends to the important raptor flyway along the Kitatinny Ridge.

Efforts by USFW and The Nature Conservancy to preserve the area started in the late nineties but the idea gained impetus in 2002 when, after a presentation by The Nature Conservancy, a group of Cherry Valley residents organized themselves into Friends of Cherry Valley with Anne Fetherman, now BWA Secretary, as President. The Cherry Creek Wa-

tershed Conservation Plan, sponsored by a BWA grant and authored by Gary Bloss, was a strong resource for the group. Monroe County, all municipalities located within the refuge, 1300 petition signers, and many other groups including PEEC and the Pocono Mts. Visitors Bureau offered support for this magnificent conservation effort.



Beautiful Cherry Valley has been designated a National Wildlife Refuge which should help protect the many special resources it harbors.

Protecting the Swiftwater Creek Watershed

By: Kietryn Zychal

The fall brought good news and more good news for the future of Swiftwater Creek and its tributaries.

On November 25, the DEP classified the headwaters, including Indian Run, an existing use of Exceptional Value (EV) after performing tests at three stations along the creek. Existing use means the water quality of the creek is better than its current designation of High Quality Cold Water Fishery.

The EV segment of the stream ends where an unnamed tributary enters the creek from the vicinity of Big Daddy's restaurant along Route 611. This tributary brings run-off from the highway and nearby businesses which degrades water chemistry, temperature and the abundance of bugs. An official redesignation to Exceptional Value is the next step in the process.

The second piece of good news for the basin comes about as a result of citizen

activism. A resident of Pocono Manor tested the soil at the shooting ranges and found it to have elevated levels of lead. The DEP responded to the complaint by performing its own tests and a clean up of the soil is underway. Better management practices regarding shotgun shells and refuse were mandated by the DEP.

Any citizen can report a complaint to the DEP by calling 866-255-5158.

Wild Trout Reproduce in the Lower Brodhead

By: Edie Stevens

In July 2007, in a contentious decision, Pa Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) upgraded the protected uses in the lower Brodhead to "Cold Water Fishery" - this change meant that any temperature impacts of new discharges into the lower Brodhead would have to be considered. The decision affected Pocono Township's plans to discharge wastewater from a new treatment plant into the lower Brodhead, and eventually lead to the decision to take the discharge instead to the Stroudsburg plant.

Advocates for the discharge to the lower Brodhead argued that trout did not reproduce in the lower Brodhead, thus the stream did not deserve that protection. To refute that claim, and confirm that trout in the lower Brodhead should be protected, Don Baylor and Jim Hartzler (partners in the firm Aquatic Resource Consulting) did an electrofishing study of the stream in August. Their study confirmed that, indeed, wild trout exist, and reproduce in the lower Brodhead.

Fishermen, and women, have long argued that the lower Brodhead is a rich fishery, for more than the stocked trout put there every year. But regulations are based on science, and Aquatic Resource Consulting is well known in its field as experts in stream studies and aquatic entomology - that's the study of the bug life in the stream, the canaries for clean water.

The full report can be found on the Brodhead Watershed website, www.brodheadwatershed.org

Streamwatchers: BWA's Eyes & Ears on the Streams

By: Jeri Jewett-Smith, Ph.D.

I think with great fondness and respect for the folks who go out into this bitter weather to measure the chemistry of the streams of the Brodhead Watershed and Cherry Creek. The data that our streamwatchers gather every month is very important as a first warning of trouble as well as a long term record of the health of the streams we rely upon for drinking water, habitat and recreation.

One of the very important measures taken is the concentration of nutrients in the streams. The nutrients that are tested for include nitrogen - a major element in living systems and serves as a measure of the amount of growth promoting compounds or fertilizers that are contained in the water. The source of high concentrations of nitrate is typically runoff from lawns and gardens, discharge from sew-

age treatment or rainwater containing pollution from fossil fuels. High levels of nitrate, above 1 mg per liter, can lead to growth of noxious algae and may impact the survival of the aquatic bugs that feed trout.

Another nutrient that BWA measures is orthophosphate. Phosphate has been less of a problem in streams in the US since it was taken out of most detergents, but will still be part of sewage and agricultural run-off. Phosphate has been found to be the most common limiting nutrient in fresh water ecosystems, which means if it occurs in high concentrations it will spur plant and algal growth. Another interesting component of nutrient patterns is the increase in concentration from headwaters to mouth. As a stream moves down the watershed, it will pick up increasing amounts of dissolved salts from normal runoff as well as hu-

man or anthropogenic sources. That is why most of our headwaters streams are lower in nutrients and considered high quality or exceptional value streams.

When streamwatchers send their data to their team leaders, those leaders look for trouble spots. If a spike in nutrients is seen, then a resample may be asked for and a call to the PA Department of Environmental Protection will follow. BWA has also, in the past, had a locally certified (EPA) water quality lab take samples from a stream that is showing a problem.

Stream protection is what BWA is all about and part of our mission is to help local and state regulators monitor patterns within the watershed. We can't do that without all of the dedicated individuals that are willing to brave the weather here in the Poconos. Thanks to you all for being our early warning system.

Proposed Water Trail Map

The committee for the proposed Brodhead Water Trail is well into the planning phase of a water trail for kayaking on the lower Brodhead. The goal of this water trail is to promote environmental stewardship through low impact recreation. Committee members met with David Lange, the National Park Service representative to discuss procedures for planning, developing, managing and educating the public about the trail.

As a result of that meeting a tentative map of the trail was created using Google maps. We'd like all members to view the trail and provide their feedback.

Go to: www.brodheadwatershed.org and click on the "What's This" link on the lower left. View the trail map and email us with your comments or suggestions.



What are those piles of pipes along Route 611?

Work has started on Phase 1 of the Rt. 611 sewer line, running from north of Swiftwater to Scotrun. They will eventually carry wastewater to an enlarged treatment plant in Stroudsburg. The project is expected take 3 years to complete.

WaterWaze 2009 Receives Funding from PPL

By: Trish Attardo

In celebration of Watershed Awareness Month in May, the Monroe County Watershed Alliance (MCWA) will hold the third annual WaterWaze festival for 6th grade students of the Clear Run Intermediate School. Once again, funding for this educational event is

being provided by PPL Corporation.

As an MCWA member, the BWA is assisting with the planning and implementation of WaterWaze, which includes topics such as watersheds, wetlands, stream studies, and groundwater.



On behalf of the PPL Corporation, Paul Canevari presents a donation in support of the MCWA's 2009 WaterWaze Festival to Trish Attardo, MCWA coordinator.

BWA Organizational Restructuring:

Members Invited to Serve

By: Pat Kennedy

In partial response to priorities identified during BWA's annual fall meeting, the BWA Board voted to restructure into seven new committees, each of which would include BWA Board members and representatives from the general membership.

The new committees, which function under the leadership of a nine member executive board, are:

1. Communications: public relations, newsletter & website
2. Stream watch
3. Activities & Education

(including fundraising & development)

4. Membership
5. Issues: policy applications, public watchdog
6. Board Development (which includes nominating)
7. Finance, audit & administration

Details about the committees can be found on the BWA website. BWA members interested in joining one of the committees are invited to contact Mike Thomas, the BWA Office Administrator, at 570-839-1120 or by e-mail at:

brodheadwatershed@verizon.net

New Officers & Members of the BWA Board

At its December meeting, the BWA Board voted to confirm a new slate of officers for 2008-2009.

New officers and positions include:

- Don Baylor - President
- Edie Stevens - Vice President of Finance & Administration
- Pat Kennedy - Vice President of Programs & Outreach
- Ann Fetherman - Secretary
- Marlo Merlige - Treasurer

Two new members were elected to fill vacant seats on the Board. These include: Marlo Merlige and Robert LaBar.

About Don Baylor - BWA President

Don Baylor is the "go to guy" for stream studies in the region. He is a partner in the consulting firm Aquatic Resource Consulting, which he started in partnership with Ken Ersbak and Jim Hartzler in 1979 while teaching English at the Stroudsburg High School.

Don holds a Masters degree in biology with a focus on aquatic entomology. His Master's work at ESU into the distribution and abundance of stream insects and the associated problems with pollution is important as a benchmark for the Brodhead Watershed and streams everywhere. His expertise on aquatic zoology in Northeast Pennsylvania stems from his years of sampling on the streams and rigorous standards for identification of the macroinvertebrates that he collects. Don is an excellent (Master) fly tying and fisherman and lectures widely on angling techniques and aquatic insects.

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 Lifetime \$1000

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.



Brodhead Watershed Association

Box 339

Henryville, PA 18332

U.S. Postage
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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.

Members Let us Know...

Snail Mail or Email? or Both!

As part of our effort to conserve resources we are now able to send our newsletter to your inbox!

So we'd like to know do you prefer to receive correspondence from us via traditional mail, email or both? Send us an email or call to let us know. We'll need your name, mailing address and email address. Thank you!

Phone: 570-839-1120

Email: brodheadwatershed@verizon.net

Web: www.brodheadwatershed.org

Community Interests in Brodhead Water Trail

The committee for the proposed Brodhead Water Trail is working to identify all individuals and groups in the Pocono Community that might have an interest in, or be affected by, the creation of the Brodhead Water Trail. Send all comments and suggestions to Patricia Kennedy at: pkennedy@po-box.esu.edu

WELCOME NEW BWA MEMBERS!

Daniel Gold, Bob & Darlene Labar, Marlo Merhige, Richard Pomerantz, Elaine Rogers, Trissa Telesky, Bob Wacker

WELCOME BACK! RockTenn Corporation

Community Workshops on the County's Open Space Program

The Monroe County Conservation District in cooperation with the Monroe County Planning Commission and Regional Open Space Committees are offering a series of workshops on the past, present and future of the open space program.

The workshops are free and open to the public. Monroe County school teachers are eligible to receive Act 48 credits for attendance.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 - Tobyhanna Township Bldg

Thursday, Feb. 5 - Chestnuthill Township Bldg

Wednesday, Feb. 18 - Stroud Township Bldg

Each workshop will be held from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. For more information please call (570) 629-3061.