



SPRING 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- April 23** - Earth Day at ESU
- April 25** - Earth Day at Barrett High Acres Park
- May 14** - Native Plant Sale - Members only 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at MCCD
- May 15** - Native Plant Sale and Festival 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at MCCD
- June 20-26** - Delaware River Sojourn, <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/sojourn.htm>
- June 26-27** - NEPA Energy Solutions Expo, Luzerne County Fairgrounds
- August 8** - BWA sponsored "McMichael Creek Ramble" - Save the Date!

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WELCOME NEW BWA MEMBERS!	
Bert and Jane Walck	
Susan Lange	
Thomas Anderson	
Kathleen McCarthy	



BWA Annual Native Plant Sale and Festival is growing like a weed!

By: Rob Sedwin

This popular event, re-named The BWA Native Plant Sale and Festival adds a new benefit to BWA members this year, with a pre-sale on Friday evening, May 14, for members only. Plan to check in at our membership table to take advantage of this opportunity from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. If your membership has lapsed, you can bring your membership up-to-date then. Not a member yet? BWA memberships will be available Friday night as well.

The Festival is now a day-long event on May 15 with an expanded list of plants and info on the plants available as well as an invasive plants id and info table, food vendors and educational programming for all ages at the Monroe County Conservation District's Environmental Education Center in Bartonsville.

Gardeners and homeowners can come and learn about a variety of native plants and buy what is suitable for their landscaping environment.

This unique event with a large selection of native plants is an invaluable local resource. Gardeners of all levels will have an opportunity to learn about how to participate in gardening methods that support and promote sustainable use of residential land. By growing native plants, people are directly participating in the environmental health of the planet.



Native plant use protects the species that belong here, and will help contain stormwater runoff and protect groundwater supplies.

More than a 1,000 plants will be available for sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Some new plants will be on hand, as well as some of the old favorites. The sale will again offer an array of plants native to the Pocono region. It will include dozens of shade and sun perennials including ferns, grasses and an assortment of shrubs available for a variety of habitats in the Poconos, from sun to shade, alkaline to acidic soils, wetlands to dry. All plants will come with

growth and habitat information to aid the customer in their planting transition into the garden.

Prices range from \$4.50 to \$18.00. For a tentative list of plants or for more information about the events of the day, visit:

www.brodheadwatershed.org.

Directions: From Stroudsburg (or Exit 302B from I-80) go north on Rt. 611 to the traffic light in Bartonsville, and turn left onto Rimrock Drive. Follow Rimrock Drive for 0.4 mile, bear right onto N. Easton-Belmont Pike, go 0.2 mile, then bear right onto Running Valley Road. MCCD is 0.7 mile on left.

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences –School of Forest Resources –Natural Resource Extension

Webinars 12:00 PM ET and 7:00 PM ET

<http://rmrext.cas.psu.edu/PAForestWeb/upcomingseminars.html>

- 4/13** Lyme disease in PA
- 5/3** Native Plants
- 5/11** Migration Madness: Identification of PA Migrant Songbirds
- 6/7** Rabbit Resistant Plants
- 6/8** Spreading Forest Stewardship to Youth



Above, Native plants: Butterfly weed, Swamp Azalea, Black eyed Susan

BWA Board Member Bob LaBar Honored by Monroe County Conservation District

Friday night March 26, 2010 at Stroudsmoor Country Inn overlooking Cherry Valley, several BWA board members and their spouses joined Bob LaBar and his wife Darlene at the MCCD Environmental Education Center annual dinner. The evening of fine food, entertainment and presentations included Bob receiving the Teacher of the Year award, presented by MCCD District Manager, Craig Todd.

Bob receive the award as result of the program he developed to involve his 7th grade students in a number of community activities including testing water in the creek behind the East Stroudsburg High School. The students' results from several months of testing will be added to BWA's water quality database. "This has been a really great opportunity to get students involved with protecting their environment while gaining an appreciation of

how their actions directly affect their community. The ultimate goal is to inspire students to become future stewards of the environment!", said Bob. Congratulations Bob!



You can help Protect Your Drinking Water

By: Carol Hillestad

One of the joys of living in or visiting the Brodhead Watershed is that everywhere you turn you see a creek or stream, rivulet or wetland. When you're here, you're never far from water.

That nearness to flowing water makes it just a trifle unsettling to learn that contaminants that go into a creek can travel downstream at the rate of a foot or more per second – covering a mile in less than 90 minutes.

This finding comes from the Source Water Protection Plan, a comprehensive study undertaken by the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA). BCRA is the water authority that provides drinking water for more 25,000 people who live in the lower reaches of the Brodhead – their "raw water" comes from the Brodhead Creek and wells that are linked to the creek.

So everything that happens to the Brodhead and its tributaries upstream happens to the water that 25,000 people depend on for drinking water. Based on this study, an oil spill on Route 191 in Anomink could reach the water authority's surface water intake in just 90 minutes and their production wells in 10-24 hours.

Is it any wonder that the BCRA wants to protect the Brodhead Creek?

BCRA's Source Water Protection Plan was five years in the

making. With a grant from Growing Greener and funding from the BCRA itself, the authority set about identifying potential threats to the water supply – and described what they would do to contain, eliminate or mitigate those threats

The Plan as been approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. Here are some of the actions BCRA will take in implementing the plan:

- meet with PennDOT, railroad officials, hazardous materials transportation companies, and others to review emergency response plans for spills and reduce the use of herbicides to clear brush along roads and train tracks
- meet with local municipal leaders to review existing ordinances and suggest new ones – such as encouraging homeowners to have their septic systems properly cleaned and maintained.

• review applications to the Delaware River Basin Commission for new commercial uses of water – providing a heads-up about competing water uptake or activities that could affect water quality

You can help, too. Anything you put in or on the ground eventually finds its way into our water supply – sometimes sooner rather than later. **If you don't want to drink it, don't dump it!**

BWA and the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau

Win-Win on Audubon Golf Collaboration

On Wednesday, March 3rd the Brodhead Watershed Association in conjunction with the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau presented "Golf's Green Bottom Line: Uncovering the Hidden Business Value of Environmental Stewardship on Golf Courses." at the Pocono Community Theater in East Stroudsburg. Stroud Township's Glen Brook Golf Club and a donation from the Pocono Heritage Land Trust also supported this event.

Jim Sluitter of Audubon International, the New York-based environmental education organization that has devoted millions of dollars to bringing golf into the environmental movement provided information to a group of about 50 attendees which included representatives from over a dozen local golf courses, suppliers and local conservationists.

According to Sluitter, "In most

industries, it costs money to "go green" - lots of money. The golfing industry is different. Golf courses are in a unique position where making some simple changes can result in almost immediate savings of thousands of dollars annually. Courses resisting the change, Sluitter said, could be in trouble when the next generation of golfers starts gaining more power." A part-time lecturer at Rutgers University, he said the students he sees "have the green thing down pat," and they're going to be expecting their businesses, including golf courses, to be green." In his presentation Sluitter pointed out; "Changes could be as simple as letting some out-of-the-way spots on the course grow naturally without any mowing, or building birdhouses on the course to naturally control insects and create a sanctuary for native species."

Glen Brook Golf Club in Stroud

Township and Shawnee Golf and Country Club in Shawnee-on-Delaware have been working toward certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses already, and as a result of the event, Terra Greens Golf course in East Stroudsburg signed up for the \$200-a-year program. Glenn Feick of Glen Brook said "I think golf courses want to be part of the solution now instead of being part of the problem, that wasn't always the case."

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP-Golf) is an award winning education and certification program that helps golf courses protect our environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf. For more information about the program, go to www.acspgolf.auduboninternational.org.



Water Facts: "H₂Ology"

- Somewhere between 70 and 75 percent of the earth's surface is covered with water.
- Much more fresh water is stored under the ground in aquifers than on the earth's surface.
- The earth is a closed system, similar to a terrarium, meaning that it rarely loses or gains extra

matter. The same water that existed on the earth millions of years ago is still present today.

- The total amount of water on the earth is about 326 million cubic miles of water.
- Of all the water on the earth, humans can use only about three tenths of a percent of this water. Such usable water is in groundwater aquifers, rivers, and freshwater lakes.
- The United States uses about 346,000 million gallons of fresh water every day.
- The United States uses nearly 80 percent of its water for irrigation and thermoelectric power.
- The average person in the United States uses anywhere from 80-100 gallons of water per day. Flushing the toilet actually takes up the largest amount of this water.
- Approximately 85 percent of U.S. residents receive their water from public water facilities. The remaining 15 percent supply their own water from private wells or other sources.

Reprinted from: www.AllAboutWater.org

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

Take Control of Invasive Plants before they control you!

By: Edie Stevens

Are invasive plants taking over your property? Help is on the way from Lori Colgan, BWA's new Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) staff member.

A few lucky BWA members can get Lori to look over their property this spring and summer (streamside properties are the first priority) to point out where invasives are taking over, offer suggestions for how to control them and recommend what native species to plant in their place. In addition to personal consultations, Lori will also present workshops on controlling invasive plants and replacement native plants to interested homeowner groups. Call the BWA office (570) 839 1120 to make an appointment with Lori or to set up a seminar with your neighbors and friends.

Lori is a graduate of ESU's Environmental Studies Program and Vermont Law School. While at ESU, Lori worked for the Nature Conservancy, training volunteers in their Weed Watchers and Weed Warriors programs. She will start work with BWA on April 15 and will finish the ISMP project, help landowners manage their invasives, and survey demonstration projects and document results. She will also develop an Action Plan for future projects in the watershed.

The ISMP project started 4 years ago under the guidance of Dr. Jeri Jewett-Smith with a grant to BWA from Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources. Interns from ESU have walked all the major stream corridors and mapped locations and density of invasive plants. Working with Dr. Shixiong Hu, Jeri and interns have created maps showing their work. Visit www.brodheadwatershed.org to view the maps and learn more.



Want to contact us?

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



Brodhead Watershed Association

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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.