

STREAM LINES



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2009

SAVE THE DATE:

SEPTEMBER 25TH
- BWA 20TH
ANNIVERSARY
DINNER &
CELEBRATION

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WELCOME NEW ADOPT-A-STREAM MEMBERS!

Borough of Stroudsburg
East Stroudsburg Borough

WELCOME NEW BWA MEMBERS!

Lubor Gergel
Brenton Hartle
David Lewis
Susan & Thomas
Brozena
Susan Jastrzemski &
Margo Warner
Joseph Fisch
Ernest & Mary Henzi

We Need Your Help Saving Paper & Money

Please be sure to send us an email letting us know that you would like to receive future issues of STREAM LINES via email. We will suspend mailing you a paper copy to save the BWA mailing and printing costs while saving trees.

Vicious Knotweed Takes the Lives of 4 Garden Tools

By: Rob Sedwin

Four shovels were sacrificed in the effort to remove a large patch of Japanese Knotweed from ESSA's property on lower 8th street in Stroudsburg. Volunteers from Trout Unlimited, ESU Professor Jeri Jewett-Smith's environmental studies class, and the BWA, with ESSA's approval, worked in the heat and sun on Sunday afternoon April 26th to battle with this evil plant.

A group of 22 volunteers, dug, pulled and carried 6 large pickup

loads of this highly invasive, easy growing, strong rooted yet lightweight weed off the bank of the Pocono Creek. The knotweed fought back by breaking 4 shovels (which fortunately passed on quickly and felt no pain), causing a lot of sweat that day, and pain rehab the



An unfortunate casualty of the battle

following week.

The goal for all concerned is to have the knotweed controlled and the area replanted with native plants that will shade out future regrowth of knotweed. The site will provide better stream access for fishermen and nature lovers and a view from Rt 80 to show how a riverbank can look once reclaimed from knotweed without the use of harmful chemicals.

Andrew Smith an ESU Environmental Science student working as an intern on BWA's

Save the Date:

Friday September 25th, 2009 The **BWA 20th Anniversary Dinner & Celebration** to be held at the historic Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort.

Contact Rob Sedwin at robsed@ptd.net or (570) 737-4150 for questions or to volunteer to help.

Cherry Valley Ramble

By: Anne Fetherman

More than sixty happy ramblers enjoyed a fine afternoon at the Cherry Valley Ramble on May 24. More than a dozen folks were disappointed because enrollment filled quickly. Cherry Valley is a special place and was recently named a National Wildlife Refuge so all were excited to learn more from our experts: Don Baylor (BWA), Mike Horne (USFWS), Bud Cook (TNC), Darryl Speicher (Pocono Avian Research), Cathy and Eric Uhler (Pocono Wildlife Rehab), Don Miller (PHLT), David Childs (Mohican Outdoor Center), and others from BWA and Friends of Cherry Valley. The event began with registration at the home of Anne and Red Fetherman and it ended there, as well, with a celebration of food and beverages for participants and presenters.

Streamwatch Notes

By: Edie Stevens

A new Streamwatch Team for the Upper Brodhead is up and running, and new volunteers are being added to other Teams, thanks to the 30 people who turned out for a Streamwatch training meeting on April 25. The training was hosted by Darryl Speicher and the Pocono Avian Research Center in Cresco with assistance from Jake Brunkard and Ellen Davis.

At a follow-up meeting of just those from the Up-

per Brodhead area, sites were assigned and kits distributed. The new Team members are: Charles Schaffer, Ernest Henzi, John Vanderweel, John Linder, Fred Ruben, Mary Kate Reeves, Lucy and Tom Collins, Darlene Ort, Matt Jardel, Darla and Jerry Williams and Doug Swift. Continuing member Doug Musselmann rounds out the Team.

The water in the streams of the Upper Brodhead is so pure that volunteers complain of never getting

any "interesting" results when they test. We tried to convince the new Team members that documenting the wonderful water quality in their streams is very important data to have.

Other volunteers at the training session will be assigned sites by Team Leaders in their regions in the next few weeks.

Many thanks to all who participated, and volunteered to care for the creeks in their neighborhood.

Open Space Protects Your Drinking Water

By: Carol Hillestad

Open Space benefits citizens of Monroe County in countless ways, many of which have been outlined on this page in recent weeks. In addition to meeting humankind's psychological need for green and natural spaces, Open Space provides economic benefits, recreational benefits, flood and stream protection, and protects drinking water. *Your* drinking water.

When you turn on the tap, you expect pure, clean, good-tasting water. Open Space land – which protects creeks and streams as well as groundwater throughout our area – works even better than the most efficient water treatment plant, because it costs nothing to run and uses no chemicals. Water that infiltrates into the ground is cleaned by natural processes of almost every kind of contaminat-

ing gunk we can throw at it.

Whether your water comes from a well or from a water company, open space is essential for pure, safe drinking water.

If you have a well, you are tapping into Earth's natural water-treatment plant. A large development upstream from you – even several *miles* upstream – can affect both the quality and the quantity of your drinking water. If, instead of developing that land, it is acquired for Open Space, your well and your drinking water will be protected.

If you have water from a water company, you are also tapping into Earth's natural water-treatment plant. The Brodhead Creek Regional Authority (BCRA), for example, takes up water from the Brodhead Creek and delivers it for the use of 21,000

people in Stroud Township, Stroudsburg and parts of Smithfield, Pocono and Hamilton Townships, monitoring it constantly for purity. In effect, the water company is just the intermediary between the natural world and you. Fortunately, Stroud Township acquired approximately 90 acres of Open Space land along the Brodhead Creek, upstream from the BCRA's water intake and wells. This buffer provides fishing, picnicking, hiking, beautiful views – and helps to protect public drinking water, too.

Did you know that people are mostly water? Adult men are 60 percent water. Babies are about 80 percent water. So if it is true that "you are what you eat," it is even truer that you are the water you drink.

"But my family drinks bottled water," you say.

...continued on page 3

Open Space...continued

“Everyone knows that bottled water is better.” In fact, if you drink some brands of bottled water, chances are that the water actually came from the Brodhead Creek, was treated by BCRA, and driven by truck to Allentown, where it was run through a filter, put in plastic bottles, and then driven back to your store. Using bottled water means spending money for a product no better than the one that comes out of your tap! (And 86 percent of those plastic bottles end up in landfills.) Further, when plastic bottles sit in the sun on a loading dock or in your car, some very nasty things can leach out of the plastic and into the water.

In Pennsylvania, unfortunately, responsibility for protecting our rivers, streams and underground water is fragmented – most responsibility lies with individual townships and boroughs. With

2,600 municipalities in Pennsylvania, that makes for a much uncoordinated approach to protecting your drinking water! But in Monroe County, we have been fortunate to have forward-thinking leaders who recognize the importance of protecting land now to preserve drinking water tomorrow.

When you are asked – whether as a taxpayer or concerned resident – to help fund the purchase open space, say yes. You are making an investment in clean water not only for our region but also for your family.

Water is essential to life. People can live for weeks without food, but only a few days without water. Protecting the land on which our safe drinking water depends isn't a luxury we can't afford. It is a necessity we can't afford to do without.

President's Message

Spring has begun; our watershed will embark on its annual role as home for a variety of activities from fishing to kayaking. With the seasonal pursuit of outdoor fun comes vulnerability to as many unknowing damaging acts. Please be aware of actions that enable invasive species to reproduce and weaken our streams and waterways. We all hope to continue to enjoy the healthy pristine ecosystem we sometimes take for granted. Stay educated and help educate others to avoid the proliferation of the dangerous invasives like Didymo (Rock Snot) and Japanese Knotweed.

I hope your spring and summer months are spent with many happy hours enjoying our watershed. Keep our message moving and don't forget to ask a friend to join the BWA and help us help you keep our water clean.

Sincerely,
Don Baylor
BWA President

Vicious Knotweed...continued

Invasive Species project and supervised by Tim Herd, Executive Director of the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission (SROSC) will maintain the area as a "demonstration site," replanting with attractive native flora and continuing to remove invasive plants, esp. Japanese Knotweed, throughout the summer. Other locations are planned for similar demonstrations. Andrew has recruited boy scouts to work on the site. If you have interest in helping in the future please contact Andrew Smith by telephone at (610) 509-3734 or email at ats5521@gmail.com.



Eric Baird of Trout Unlimited "takin' out" some Knotweed

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

Native Plants Still Available for Sale...

There is still time to get native plants in the ground and the BWA still has some great plants for sale. Contact Sharon Keen at skeen@ptd.net home (570) 476-9873 or mobile (570) 994-8326 for more information.

Species:	Size:	Qty Available:	Price:
Hawthorn	1-2 gallon pots	1	\$7.00
Carex	1-2 gallon pots	1	\$6.00
Ostrich Ferns	1-2 gallon pots	4	\$8.00
Wild Native Honeysuckle	4-5" pots	17	\$6.00 - \$8.00
Big Bluestem	plugs	20	\$3.00
Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'	plugs	8	\$3.00
Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'	4-5" pots	12	\$6.00 - \$8.00
Wild Geranium	plugs	55	\$3.50
Great Blue Lobelia	plugs	51	\$3.00
Swamp Mallow	4-5" pot	31	\$6.00 - \$8.00
Foamflower	2 qt. pot	5	\$6.00
Canada Anemone	2 qt. pot	5	\$6.00
Jacob's Ladder	2 qt. pot	8	\$6.00
Celadine Poppy	2 qt. pot	3	\$6.00

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.