

STREAM LINES

The Newsletter of the
Brodhead Watershed Association



Published by and for BWA members

Summer 2006

\$\$\$\$ Available for Community Projects

Through a special grant program, BWA has mini-grants available for local community projects.

- Riparian plantings
- Rain Gardens
- Butterfly Gardens
- Beautification projects that involve local waterbodies
- Some local match required

Please contact Theresa at 570-839-1120 for more information

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"Wastewater" is not a problem.... It's a resource !

Twenty years ago, a decentralized concept of wastewater management was formally developed – complete with demonstrations that decentralized systems would often be cheaper, better for the public, and easier on the environment than conventional, centralized "pump-and-dump" systems. Nine years ago, Congress weighed in, agreeing that decentralized concept systems would be a superior way to address wastewater management needs in many settings. Yet today, we still have business-as-usual engineering for wastewater.

[See "Pocono Big Dig" on pg. 2]

Instead of thinking of wastewater as a problem to be flushed away, think of it as a resource to be recycled and reused. This recycling and reuse would take place as close as possible to where the wastewater was generated – to keep the water "budget" within a watershed as balanced as possible. Specific technologies to make such a system work

depend on the scale of need – a large corporation or school, for example, would be designed differently from a small housing development. These technologies aren't pie-in-the-sky. They already exist.

Wastewater can then be managed with individual on-site systems or clusters of systems which can be combined and "collectivized" for maximum efficiency. How much wastewater a decentralized system can treat and reuse depends on local factors – topography, characteristics of the site and soil, development density, type of development, and how/where the treated water can be reused or discharged.

A "local factor" that should be considered, is how residents want to see their community developed. As long as residents do not express their vision for their community, this "local factor" will be ignored and we will have "business-as-usual" development in the Poconos.

BWA has been asked to partner with the **National Center for Environmental Research** on a pilot project that will have national significance.

<http://es.epa.gov/ncr/cns/pilots.html>

This federally funded project is evaluating the effects of growth and land use change on groundwater, stream flow and the ecology of the Pocono Creek. Research findings will be transferred to other areas of the country. BWA hopes that this project won't be too late to help our community develop in a healthy, sustainable manner. **Sustainability is the ability to achieve economic prosperity while protecting the natural systems of the planet and providing a high quality of life for its people.**

Getting in over our heads ?

POCONO'S OWN "BIG DIG" ROLLS ON

.Boston's "Big Dig," intended to re-route downtown traffic, was already notorious for billions in cost overruns. Now it turns out that all that money produced a shoddy product, where falling concrete has already killed one hapless motorist.

Are we headed for our own Big Dig? Like the Big Dig, the Pocono sewer line has taken on a life of its own. This project started out with the intention of helping a valuable community member solve its future wastewater needs for an additional 350,000 gallons per day. It has, in the past year, expanded into a project with a potential for servicing up to 3 million gpd .

At an estimated \$ 60 million dollars, this "Big Dig PipeDream" is possibly the most expensive public works project undertaken in Monroe County. The pipeline alone – needed to collect sewage and then carry the treated wastewater from a sewage treatment plant in Bartonsville to the Brodhead Creek at the Brodhead Greenway Park – will cost \$29 million dollars.

If applications for state and federal grant money (tax dollars) are successful, home owners along Route

611 will pay approximately \$900.00 annually for one home. If the grant applications are NOT successful, all rates will be 50% higher (yes, nearly \$1,500.00 per year for homeowners). This compares somewhat unfavorably to the rates in Stroudsburg, \$180.00 annually, and in Stroud township \$606.00 annually.

Businesses will be paying astronomical rates. Sanofi pasteur will pay \$3,500,000 to hook up and \$1,226,400 annually, if grant monies are received,. And this is for 350,000 gallons per day of discharge. Sanofi will be taking care of 550,000 gallons per day on their own land.

The Tannersville Inn will be required to pay \$50,000.00 to hook up and \$17,000.00 annually. Add 50% to those numbers if the grants are not acquired.

An Ordinance requiring **all** properties, residential and commercial, to connect to the wastewater collection system is expected to be adopted sometime during 2007.

As we go to press, decisions are expected shortly from DEP on the Pocono-Hamilton Regional Sewage Management plan and from the

Delaware River Basin Commission on the discharge to the Brodhead Creek.

BWA has argued at Pocono Township, DEP and DRBC that this project is expensive, unnecessary and environmentally unsound. Unfortunately, the regulations of agencies that issue permits for these projects, are geared more toward whether all the boxes on the forms are checked off . Regulatory sense vs. Common sense.

The downstream municipalities have said they don't want the discharge point to be in their newly developed Brodhead Greenway Park. But that doesn't seem to have figured into the decision making process, either.

We are not giving up and continue to have meetings to argue against the project and encouraging alternative solutions that recognize 'wastewater' as a resource not a waste product. We risk not only time and money, but also being made a laughingstock with our own Big Dig.

There are better, more environmentally sound, sustainable ways to manage wastewater and growth.

Sanofi-Pasteur: a case study in doing things right

Sanofi-Pasteur has purchased xxx acres of land adjoining their Swiftwater plant and has submitted their own revised Act 537 Wastewater Management Plan. Their revised plan calls for spray irrigation of xx gallons per day (gpd) on 53 acres of that land with approximately 100 acres reserved for future expansion. The 100 acres is not suitable for plant expansion, but it is suitable for additional spray irrigation. Sanofi-Pasteur is planning seasonal spray irrigation and an increase in their discharge to Swiftwater Creek. This increase has already been approved. It's just good business for a company to control its costs by controlling its own wastewater.

The Big Dig PipeDream & Great Wolf ?

After much uproar in the press and with a lot of hard work – and cash – Great Wolf has its sewage treatment plant under control. Why would they now want to pay \$2,150,000 (potentially \$3,230,000) to hook up to the Big Dig pipeline ?

Watershed Festival—May 18, 2007

Do you remember your sixth grader dashing in after school, full to the brim with something that happened at school? Maybe it was a sports event . . . or getting a part in the play . . . or even an amazing demonstration she saw in science class.

Building on children's natural sense of wonder is a proven way to educate them – and their parents. That's why BWA is very excited about an event being planned by the Watershed Alli-



ance and Trish Attardo, the Watershed Specialist at the Monroe County Conservation District.

The Monroe County Watershed Alliance (MCWA), a coalition of conservation organizations, agencies, and citizens, is hosting a Watershed Festival for sixth-grade students from Pocono Elementary Center and Swiftwater Elementary Center on May 18, 2006 at the Northampton Community College, Monroe Campus in Tannersville.

The MCWA views the festival as an excellent opportunity to celebrate Watershed Awareness Month (May) with future decision-makers of Monroe County. Funds for this event were donated by PPL through the BWA.

As students rotate through interactive presentations given by professionals and knowledgeable volunteers, they will be educated about various aspects of water resource conservation. The presented information will address the Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology, Watersheds and

Wetlands section. The topics of water cycle, water habitats, and wetlands, that the Monroe County Environmental Education Center covered during the students' fourth-grade visit to the Tannersville Cranberry Bog, will be revisited and built upon. The presenters will provide the students with a visual comprehension of this new knowledge that might not otherwise be simulated in the classroom.

The Northampton Community College, Monroe Campus has offered its entire building for our use and is eager to work on this event. To get ideas and study successes, Alliance members have participated in and observed similar events in the Lehigh Valley. These Lehigh Valley events, including HydroMania have been successful for years. The Alliance looks forward to providing the same service for students in Monroe County

The MCWA is looking forward to this event and plans to make it both enjoyable and educational for the students and an event that even the teachers

Check out Lehigh Valley's HYDROMANIA at www.lvwater.org/hydromania.asp

Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award 2006

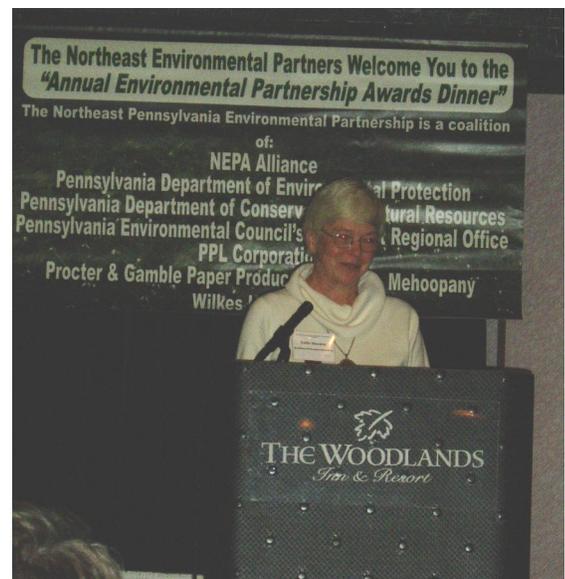
Presented to BWA Member Edie Stevens

On October 18, 2006, one of the founders of the BWA, was awarded the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award by the Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners. This award is presented annually to an individual who stands out in the community for their commitment to environmental quality, and who has proven to be an inspiring leader and champion of partnering.

For nearly 40 years, Edie has been involved in conservation, and for many of those years she has been a regional force in water resource protection, community planning and environmental education. She has served on many boards including: the Board of Directors of the Monroe County Conservation District; League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA); PA Environmental Council. She served on the DEP's Special Protection Waters Regulatory Negotiation Committee, the Deep Mine Mediation Committee and the DEP's Water Resources Advisory Committee.

Today, Edie is the editor of Water Policy News and communication director for the Water Resources Education Network (WREN), a project of the LWVPA.

Thank you, Edie, for all you have done and continue to do for Northeastern PA.



Watershed Watch

Recent applications filed and permits granted in the Brodhead watershed, from the PA Bulletin

Wastewater

Application for New or Expanded Industrial Wastewater Discharges

July 8, Laird Technologies, Delaware Water Gap, Cherry Creek, treated wastewater from a metal stamping and finishing operation

Applications for renewals of NPDES (discharge) permits

July 22, Skytop Lodge, Barrett Twp., Leavitt Branch

Aug 19, Barton Court Mobile Home Park, Pocono Twp., Pocono Creek

Aug 26, Monsignor McHugh School, Paradise Twp., UNT to Paradise Creek

Aug 26, Rock Tenn Corp., Delaware Water Gap, Brodhead Creek

Sept 16, Cove Haven, Paradise Twp., Paradise Creek

Oct 7, PA American Water Co., Stroud Twp., Sambo Creek

Oct 28, E. Stroudsburg Boro, Smithfield Twp., Sambo Creek

Oct 28, Snydersville Diner, Hamilton Twp., Kettle Creek

NPDES (discharge) permits issued

July 29, Sanofi Pasteur, Pocono Twp., Swiftwater Creek

Aug 12, Buck Hill Falls, Barrett Twp., Buck Hill Creek

Aug 19, Pocono Mt. School District, Pocono Twp., Swiftwater Creek

Nov 11, Matzel Development of Pocono Manor, Pocono Twp., Swiftwater Creek

Water Quality Management permit applications

July 29, Spruce Lake Retreat, Barrett Twp., increase flow from 6,800 gpd to 8323 gpd

Aug 12, Sanofi Pasteur, re-rate existing

STP from 350,000 gpd to 450,000 gpd, and expand STP to 550,000 gpd and 950,000 gpd.

Sept 9, Mt. Airy Lodge, additions and modifications to existing STP and golf course irrigation system

Water Quality Management permits issued

July 22, Mt. Airy Lodge, Paradise, Forest Hills Run

Aug 12, Great Wolf Lodge, Pocono Twp., Scot Run, add equalization tank

Stormwater

Applications to discharge stormwater from construction activities

July 22, Mark Styczen, Pocono Twp., Pocono Creek

July 22, Hirschland & Co. Mt. Pocono, Swiftwater Creek

July 22, Fairfield Resorts, Smithfield Twp., Trib to Marshalls Creek

July 22, Suburban Realty, Stroud, Wigwam Run

Aug 19, Monroe Food Systems, Stroud, Pocono Creek

Aug 19, Northland Dev. Corp., Pocono Twp., trib to Butz Run & Cranberry Creek

Aug 26, Stroud Commons, Stroud Twp., Pocono Crk

Aug 26, C&M Shawnee Land Holdings, Smithfield & Middle Smithfield twp., Shawnee Creek

Sept 23, Bruce George, Hamilton Twp., McMichael Creek

Sept 30, Wisteria Commons, Barrett Twp., Cranberry Creek

Nov 11, Mt. Pocono Borough, Mt. Pocono, Forest Hills Run

Nov 18, AMMRE Holdings, Paradise Twp., Paradise Creek

Permits issued for discharge of stormwater

July 22, Mt. Airy Lodge, Paradise Twp., Forest Hills Run

Aug 12, Knob Crest Associates, Mt. Pocono, Forest Hills Run

Nov 11, Fairview Associates, Pocono Twp., Pocono Creek

Nov 25, Veneza Enterprises, Tobyhanna Twp., Pocono & McMichael

Approval of General Permit for discharge of Stormwater (used in non-special protection streams)

Oct 7, Mosier Development, Brodhead Creek

Oct 7, Milford Road, LLC, Sambo creek

Public Water Supply - Applications

Aug 19, Joshmor, Inc. Chestnuthill and Jackson Twp., a new community water system to serve 207 homes, Emerson Chase development

Permits

Nov 4, Mt. Airy No. 1, LLC, construct a replacement Public Water Supply.

Encroachments - Permits

July 22, East Stroudsburg School District, to remove an abandoned bridge, stabilize stream banks, and construct a 80 ft long bridge across the Sambo Creek.

Sept 23, Paradise Twp., to construct enclosures in Forest Hills Run, and a trib to widen Woodland Road and construct a new access road to the Mt. Airy golf course

Applications

Nov 18, Sanofi-Pasteur, to construct a pedestrian bridge, utility lines and outfall diffuser, associated with STP expansion, Pocono Twp., Swiftwater Creek

Open Spaces and Natural Places in Monroe County ... What's Next???

Dear BWA Members

As a member of the Monroe County Open Space Advisory Board, in conversations about the County's Open Space program, I am frequently asked this question, "So? What happens next?"

My reply is always, "Good question!" while wishing I could respond confidently with, "We do it again! And issue another county bond for \$25 million (or more) and continue the work our Open Space Program has really just begun".

For those not as directly involved with the current Open Space Program, I am referring to the initial open space ground work that has been completed by the Open Space Board, and others, to date:

- develop a core of dedicated and trained open space volunteers serving on various open space committees and recreation commissions throughout Monroe County
- encourage through incentives for matching acquisition funds a program where every municipality not only participates, but cooperates with neighboring municipalities in identifying and acquiring (or protecting through conservation easements) critical open areas throughout Monroe County
- present a series of community open space education workshops and events to familiarize county residents and potential open space volunteers with the process and procedures for protecting significant county natural resource areas (natural areas and passive and active recreation areas)
- assist a number of existing local, regional and national land trust/conservation organizations and all Monroe County municipal officials with land protection information, protection options and procedures and funding opportunities to support their open space efforts
- design the procedures, paperwork organization and documentation process for identifying, acquiring/protecting and funding open space and recreation areas equally distributed throughout Monroe County
- facilitate the acquisition of matching open space acquisition and recreation development funds from the state and federal sources (the current Open Space Program procedures require a one to one match of State or private funds for every county dollar spent on property protection or acquisition)

As this process began in 1998, a ten-year program development and spending/acquisition goal seemed a long way off. But here we are – 2006, two years from the end of the current ten-year program and we have accomplished much of what we set out to do. Over 5,000 acres of prime agricultural land has been protected through both the state and local Agricultural Easement program. Nearly 10,000 acres of natural areas, passive and active recreation areas and publicly accessible open space areas have been protected as part of this program. Is 10,000 or 15,000 (of Monroe County's 400,000) acres enough? Most of the original \$25 million dollars has been matched by state and private funds and by the end of 2006 nearly \$50 million will have been spent (or dedicated for spending) to establish both public access lands and scenic landscapes protected from development. For the cost of a night at the movies per each resident of Monroe, we have begun a program of protecting some of the scenic natural landscapes, valuable agricultural land and special outdoor recreation areas for future generations of Monroe Countians and Pocono visitors to enjoy.

As difficult and time consuming as this process has been for all directly participating in developing and carrying it out, the program has been developed successfully and is working as envisioned for the most part for all involved. Although it would be good to catch our breath, the continuing population growth and development pressures are not stopping, they are increasing. It is time to step forward again and plan for the next 10-year open space program. **WILL THERE BE A NEXT STEP??**

We need you to contact (phone, email or write) your elected municipal and county officials in support of the present program and encourage them to take the next step. Do we ever stop promoting and financially supporting our Pocono area commercial, residential and tourism/vacation opportunities? NO! Should we ever stop actively promoting and supporting protection of the natural resource base that makes all of these other County attributes so marketable? NO!

In the true sense of 2020, for every tax dollar we spend for the commercial and industrial development of Monroe County there should be an equal tax dollar spent on protecting the natural resource base that supports this development and provides the quality of life that we have taken for granted for much too long. A viable and continuing Open Space program can do that!! Please encourage the County Commissioners to "Take the next step!"

Very Sincerely Yours,

Don Miller

Member of the Monroe County Open Space Advisory Board — Pocono Heritage Land Trust Board Member— Past President of BWA

New BWA Members in 2006 !

Beverly and John Able - Kim Baldwin

Joseph Bedrick - Tracy & John Booth

Geraldine Daley - Ellen Davis

Greg Ferenbach - Bernie & Mollie Garvey

John Guthrie - Bill & Chris Henry

Bill Hoover - Sam Huffard

Frank Imbert - Harold Jacobs

Gregory Latsko - Mary Lou Lilius

Bill Martin - Sean McGuran

Marcia McKey

Micky Myers & Tom Gallucci,

Dr. Gregory Pence - Crystal Perry

Robert Rosenberg - Michele Royce

Walter Sollberger - Shirley Weber

Susan Wilkins - Evelyn Wuest

Chestnuthill Township

Encourage a Friend to Join Today!!!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Circle One:

Family \$30 Individual \$15 Senior \$10

Student \$5 Contributor \$100

Stream Sign Sponsor \$100 Adopt-A-Stream Site \$250

Other \$ _____

Return 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

PAID

Mt Pocono, PA 18344

Permit No. 12



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.

Contributing to this issue: Carol Hillestad, Theresa Merli, Don Miller, Edie Stevens and John Styk

