

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'Cleaner, greener future' grows in Poconos with free tree program

Brodhead Watershed Association recently distributed more than 200 trees and seedlings within Monroe County as part of the PPL Community Roots program. PPL Electric Utilities sponsored the free program to help create "a cleaner, greener future."

About 200 saplings and more than two dozen potted trees arrived at BWA's Mount Pocono office in September, delivered by PPL, and were given to local municipalities including Stroudsburg Borough and Middle Smithfield and Chestnuthill townships.

Additionally, Monroe County Garden Club selected trees to plant near its gardens, and volunteers planted serviceberry shrubs in BWA's demonstration rain gardens at Dansbury Depot in East Stroudsburg. More than 80 of the saplings were distributed to BWA members at the annual dinner celebration, which addressed ways to combat climate change on a local level.

"We know that a properly planted tree can have a tremendous positive impact on the environment," said BWA Executive Director Bob Heil. "Even more gratifying is that most of the tree species provided (river birch, swamp oak, serviceberry) were ideally suited for streamside or wetlands areas, which makes this project all the more beneficial for the Brodhead watershed."

The trees will not only beautify the Poconos and combat air pollution, but also preserve water quality. Riparian buffers – an area of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation adjacent to a body of water – maintain stream system integrity, protect water quality/temperature and improve the habitat of plants and animals on land and in the water.

BWA thanks PPL for its ongoing Community Roots program. For information, see ppllectric.com/safety-and-community/environment/community-roots.aspx.

Brodhead Watershed Association is a nonprofit environmental organization formed in 1989. BWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving water resources and the environment of the Brodhead watershed, and the water quality of the Brodhead, Cherry, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries. BWA assists municipalities, residents, businesses and groups with protecting natural resources through education, workshops, seminars, public programs and stream monitoring. For information: info@brodheadwatershed.org or 570-839-1120.