



Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2015



Better environment, beautiful gardens at Native Plant Sale

By Carol Hillestad

Bring your gardening questions to the experts at BWA's Native Plant Sale. The event runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 9. An early-bird event — 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 8 — will be held for members only. Become a member at the sale, and enjoy a 10 percent discount on all the plants you buy.

The annual sale includes expert advice from successful gardeners, garden designs, and plant lists for rain gardens and streambanks. The event will be at Northampton Community College, 411 State Route 715, Tannersville.

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A full day of fun for Earth Day

By Carol Hillestad

Ice cream and artisans, art exhibits and fly fishing, composting and rain barrels, a guided hike, bird-watching and dozens of prizes in a beautiful, flat 5K run/walk, plus kids' dash — there's something for everyone on Sunday, April 26, at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve on Cherry Lane Road, Analomink. The events will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come cheer on runners, walkers and dashers

The day starts with registration for the "Creek 5K" from 8 to 9 a.m. Registration is \$25. Better yet, pre-register by April 11. You'll save \$5 and guarantee your T-shirt by pre-registering online at www.brodheadwatershed.org.

The Kids' Dash is at 9:30, followed by the Creek 5K run/walk at 10 and awards at 10:45. Earth Day Festival runs 11:30 to 4 p.m. with displays, artists, music, food and demonstrations.

ForEvergreen is easy to get to, with lots of free parking, gorgeous scenery, and walks along the historic Brodhead Creek, home of



American flyfishing. Get information at www.brodheadwatershed.org or www.phlt.org, or call 570-839-1120 or 570-424-1514.

Events are sponsored by Brodhead Watershed Association, Pocono Heritage Land Trust and Stroud Township, with help from Pocono Medical Center, Fisher & Son, Brodhead Forest & Stream Association, Frogtown Restaurant, Parkside Anglers, Peter Gifford and Dr. Pat Kennedy and Mike Thomas. Proceeds support ForEvergreen Nature Preserve.

ARTISTS WANTED

Artists are needed for the Earth Day event on Sunday, April 26, at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve. Artists, who will be able to display and sell their work, will also be featured in the event's promotion efforts.

The celebration will be held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 43-acre nature preserve (formerly Penn Hills golf course) in Stroud Township.

Registration is limited to 30 artists, each making a \$25 donation to ForEvergreen Nature Preserve (\$5 discount if registration is confirmed by April 10).

For information, contact Pocono Heritage Land Trust Director Dawn Gorham at 570-424-1514, or email info@phlt.org.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Smith

The real reason we do what we do

I asked the new recruits at the recent Streamwatcher training why they were there. I heard: "To learn how monitor for pollution" and "Because I fish the waters" and then "Because I live here."

That last answer was what I wanted most to hear.

We live here. These are our waters, collectively, and in many ways, very personally.

Legal definitions aside, we have a personal attachment to the watershed, its fauna, flora, and waters. We take great exception to abuse of that resource, and vow to protect it.

Even after 25 years, BWA's mission still applies: "To protect the environment and the water resources within the watershed." It was reassuring to see a strong turnout from residents who undoubtedly feel the connection to their watershed.

Board member Dick Shackleton, said it best when describing how BWA board members feel. I can only paraphrase it now, but he said something like: They should feel a deep-rooted commitment to protecting the watershed, and they should demonstrate it.

I invite those of you who want to do more for the watershed to let us know that you have such commitment, and would like to serve on the BWA board of directors. There are talents we need.

Talk to us. Take the first step to help guide the next 25 years of BWA achievements.

PLANT

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Why native plants?

Native plants are perfectly adapted to our climate, soils, and rainfall. They provide habitat and food for birds, butterflies, small mammals and other local critters. They are not invasive and disruptive to the local ecological balance. They're beautiful. They look great together. They get established quickly, with minimum fuss. And, at the BWA's Native Plant Sale, they're a bargain, too!

Why at Northampton Community College?

The new Monroe campus of NCC was built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold standards — meaning the campus incorporates many smart choices to protect air and water quality, use energy efficiently, and provide healthy indoor and outdoor habitat for people. During your visit to the plant sale, take a tour of the campus. You'll see solar-paneled parking lots, passive solar public spaces, gorgeous rain gardens, native plants, and more.

The campus designer, John Young of MKSD Architects, will lead tours of NCC's green features.

Questions? Call Brodhead Watershed Association at 570-839-1120 or visit www.brodheadwatershed.org.

Streamwatchers in training



Forty-five people attended Streamwatch training on March 19 and 21 in Swiftwater, conducted by Tom Salmon (above, right) and Ellen Davis. BWA gained 12 new members and is assigning water testing points to new Streamwatchers now. Anyone interested in becoming a Streamwatcher can learn more on the Streamwatch page at www.brodheadwatershed.org/streamwatchers.html, or email info@brodheadwatershed.org.

Welcome, new members!

Richard & Mary Ellen Cramer of Stroudsburg, Maureen Madden of Tobyhanna, Marion Rosenbaum of Stroudsburg, Julie and Pete Niering of Cresco, Lorraine Kamerling of East Stroudsburg, Deborah Conklin of East Stroudsburg, Rosaria Natiello of East Stroudsburg, Suzanne Colefield of Cresco, Magdalena Costanzo of Effort, Dick Lessard of East Stroudsburg, Brittney Coleman & Ken Hatt of Cherry Valley, Paul Nelson of Henryville, Andrea & John Higgins of Stroudsburg, Rebecca Cummings of Henryville, Doris Pursell of Riegelsville, Cindy Zunigou of Tannersville

Find us and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram!

BWA FACES

Raymond Macik

Meet Raymond Macik, Brodhead Watershed's intern during the 2014-15 school year.

He ran the 2014 fecal coliform testing as part of the green infrastructure project, and continues to support BWA with events and data/mapping projects.

Raymond is a 25-year-old East Stroudsburg University student, and a busy one: He has two majors (bachelor's degrees in biology and environmental studies) and two minors (chemistry and geography). He will graduate May 9.

As a Tannersville native and Pocono Mountain East alumnus, he said, "Having grown up in this area, my friends and I were always outdoors — whether it was exploring a new trail or blazing our own."

Raymond enjoys hiking in the Poconos because of the area's "enormous environmental and geological presence. No hike (is) ever the same."

Among his favorite places: the Appalachian Mountain range passing through the Delaware Water Gap, the glacial moraine in Sciota, or the Tannersville Cranberry Bog.

Raymond's early interests have become his career.

After graduation, he will join the



work force, particularly in the biological science field. He has applied for state Civil Service positions, including positions as a DCNR ranger trainee, environmental trainee, environmental education specialist, or forensic scientist trainee. He also plans to work for nonprofit organizations or environmental restoration companies in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Then, possibly a master's degree and doctorate — maybe in botany. "I am not opposed to a concentration in hydrology or limnology, either, and I do have some keen ideas for potential graduate research involving water quality studies; this passion having stemmed from working with the BWA."

Even with these big plans, "I plan to continue working with the BWA in as many ways possible," Raymond said.

\$35M investment in Delaware watershed

By Edie Stevens

Launched in 2014, the Delaware River Watershed Initiative began with a multi-year \$35 million investment from the William Penn Foundation to protect and restore critical sources of drinking water for 15 million people who get their drinking water from the Delaware River watershed. Grants to conservation groups in the watershed will permanently protect land, restore streams and pilot new protection and restoration incentives for landowners and businesses.

BWA has benefited from the program through two recent programs: as a sub-contractor to The Nature Conservancy, we will train residents in the upper Delaware watershed in our Streamwatch procedures, and develop a core of people who will be stewards of nearby streams. Jackie Speicher is our lead person for that project.

In addition, BWA's Green Infrastructure Project is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the William Penn Foundation. During the summer of 2014, intern Raymond Macik and Streamwatch volunteers collected water samples for fecal coliform testing. Also in 2014, Darryl Speicher and Monroe County Planning Commission staff have walked the streams to locate and map all the pipes and small tributaries that flow into the lower Brodhead, McMichael and Pocono creeks.

BWA is part of the Upper Delaware "cluster" identified as an area where protecting our abundant forests and wetlands is critical to protecting water quality and quantity in the Delaware River. Funds are available for land trusts and municipalities to purchase land, or conservation easements, from willing sellers.

■ *Press release from William Penn Foundation: "\$35 Million In Grants Launches Multi-State Investment In Delaware River Watershed" at <http://bit.ly/1ihkGuy>*

Open space acquisitions help keep Paradise 'paradise'

Paradise Township recently acquired two beautiful wooded properties that will be open to the public for hiking and other passive recreation.

The VanBuskirk Farm Preserve, 86 acres and one-third of a mile along Cranberry Creek, is within easy walking distance of other preserved public land in the Cranberry Creek subwatershed. Also on the property are wetlands, remains of farm buildings and old orchards, and a vernal pool that has taken over a small quarry.

Public access will allow for hiking, birding, snowshoeing, fishing, picnicking, and other low-impact activities. Parking, access, and trails in this preserve are under development.

The Swiftwater-Forest Preserve is on the watershed divide between Swiftwater Creek and Forest Hills Run. Consisting of 98 acres, it includes lovely upland mixed hardwood forests — including a new glen which the gypsy moths created with their ravenous consumption of a

large stand of oak. The glen is in the early stages of forest succession, providing terrific habitat for birds and small mammals. Public access will allow for hiking, birding, snowshoeing, picnicking and other low-impact activities. An existing trail can be accessed from the cul-de-sac on Donaldson Road, off Lower Swiftwater Road. More trails are planned.

The township will soon publish a map of preserves and parks in and around Paradise.

Saving on a rainy day

Collect rain while the sun doesn't shine with Monroe County Conservation District's rain barrels.

Roof runoff gathered in rain barrels supplies naturally soft water for many uses: in your garden, cleaning the car, or washing windows.

MCCD is selling Pennsylvania-made rain barrels featuring a screened lid, brass ball valve spigot, bottom drain, and overflow fittings — all installed on a repurposed barrel.

The barrels are \$80 each. Order yours by April 15, and pick it up Saturday, April 25, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at MCCD building on Running Valley Road, Bartonsville. For information, call 570-629-3061 or see mconconservation.org.



BWA at Cherry Valley Festival

Brodhead Watershed Association will host a booth, including refreshments, at the annual Cherry Valley Festival on June 13 at the Josie Porter Farm. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the festival will bring environmental-themed activities, workshops, food, drink, music, arts, farm tours and more to celebrate the beautiful Cherry Valley. Stop by to say "hello" at the BWA's booth!

CALENDAR

JOURNEY TO VERNAL POOLS
(Where in the Watershed Walk #14)
Saturday, April 18, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Come explore one of Paradise Township's newest natural areas. See a large and active vernal pool where frog, toad and salamander egg masses may be getting ready to hatch. This short walk, led by Carol Hillestad and Ellen Davis, is geared toward families. Bring your camera. The walk starts at the cul-de-sac on Donaldson Road off Lower Swiftwater Road in Paradise Township. To register, call 570-424-1514 or email info@phlt.org.

CRANBERRY BOG BOARDWALK STROLL
(Where in the Watershed Walk #15)
Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. to noon

Amy Albert and Roz Evans will lead this walk in Cranberry Bog. Event is limited to BWA, Pocono Heritage Land Trust and Nature Conservancy members.

FLY FISHING AND FLY TYING
Sunday, June 28, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Learn the basics of fly fishing, fly tying and "reading the stream." On Brodhead Creek at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve, this event will be led by the Brodhead chapter of Trout Unlimited, Don Baylor, Don Miller and Ann Foster.

HIKE TO DEVIL'S HOLE CREEK, DEVIL'S HOLE FALLS
(Where in the Watershed Walk #16)
Sunday, July 19, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Don Miller and Bill Sweeney will lead this walk on state Game Lands 221.

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.

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