



AUTUMN 2011

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WELCOME NEW BWA MEMBERS!

Canadensis Veterinary Clinic - new Adopt-A-Streamsite Sponsor
 Dr. Michael P. Doherty
 Michael M. Gondell
 Ray Youngblood
 William Loftus
 Bob Bass
 Joan Merli
 Sonia M. White
 Doug Smith
 Mike Shepard
 Deborah G. Booth
 Eugene Hughes
 John & Ruth Ann Rochio
 Robert & Lisa Brooks
 Robert & Darcy Hughes
 Amy Finkelstein
 Stephan Van De Loecht



ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

Over 90 BWA supporters gathered in the warmth of the Shawnee Inn's main ballroom for a festive and fun luncheon on October 2. Responding rapidly to the (correct) prediction of a cold rainy day, organizers, working at breakneck speed with Shawnee staff, were able to switch the event from the planned location of the pavilion.

This year's meeting included attorney Mark Szybist's presentation on the challenges of Marcellus Shale gas drilling, an introduction of Rick Koval, naturalist and outdoor writer and recognition of fifteen-year, or longer, Adopt-A-Streamsite Sponsors and currently active Streamwatchers.

Keynote speaker Mark Szybist is a staff attorney in PennFuture's Wilkes-Barre office where he focuses on the controversial Marcellus Shale fracking process in northeastern and north-central Pennsylvania.

Mark reviewed the problems associated with the drilling - including threats to aquifers, air quality, impacts on roads and storm water runoff. He reported on the status of several shale-related lawsuits as well as a pending determination from the Delaware River Basin Commission on the drilling in the basin. Mark also emphasized complexity of the legal issues surrounding drilling for gas, some the unique result of state legislation. He described the status of pending lawsuits and offered some suggestions for what municipalities can and can't do to protect their residents. He advised that BWA members find out if their municipality has a zoning regulation that applies to gas wells.

We expect to invite Mark back for a more in depth session, so watch for it. His presentation from the annual meeting will soon be posted on the BWA website.

In addition, longtime BWA friend and supporter John J. Riley was presented with the 2011 Exceptional Value Award - a picture of one of John's favorite local fishing holes on Scot Run by Dave Coulter. John has provided a home for BWA in his accounting office building in Mt. Pocono for 22 years. Only the closing of that office has made it necessary for us to seek new space.

Many thanks to event organizers extraordinaire, Rob Sedwin and Kietryn Zychal and Silent Auction captains, Geri Daley and Chris Perry.



Keynote speaker, Mark Szybist, Marcellus Shale expert.

Outgoing BWA president, Pat Kennedy, hands the President's portfolio over to Rob Sedwin.



At its October 3 meeting, the BWA board unanimously elected Rob Sedwin (left) to the position of president. Rob, a member of the BWA Board since 2008, served for two years as vice president for issues and outreach before accepting the presidency.

"I am delighted that Rob agreed to take on this role," said Kennedy. "Rob has been an energetic force in BWA's efforts to increase community recognition of BWA and its efforts to protect the quality of life in the watershed."

Meet Rob and learn about his priorities for the organization at

<http://www.brodheadwatershed.org/RobSedwin.html>

Other officers elected at the October 3 meeting include: Gary Bloss, vice-president for outreach and issues, Edie Stevens, vice president for administration, Marlo Merhige, treasurer and Pat Kennedy, secretary.

Chris Perry elected to BWA Board

Chris Perry, a Streamwatcher in Price Township, was elected to the Board of the BWA at the annual meeting and Fall Luncheon on October 2.

Chris is an avid hiker and kayaker. She volunteers at Promised Land State Park, leading hikes and assisting with tree planting, and at Delaware Water Gap NRA where she is a water safety ambassador.

Chris and her partner Geri Daley have already pitched in on BWA projects - helping with the Native Plant Sale in May and the Pocono Creek Clean-up in September and running the very successful Silent Auction and raffles

for the Fall Luncheon Oct 2.



Chris Perry

Chris is committed to improving our environment for future generations. We look forward to her energy, enthusiasm and experience on the BWA board.

Also re-elected to the Board for continuing terms were: Amy Albert, Don Baylor, Gary Bloss, Robert LaBar, Judy Mehl, Theresa Merli, Marlo Merhige, Rob Sedwin, Dick Shackleton, Daryl Speicher and Doug Swift.

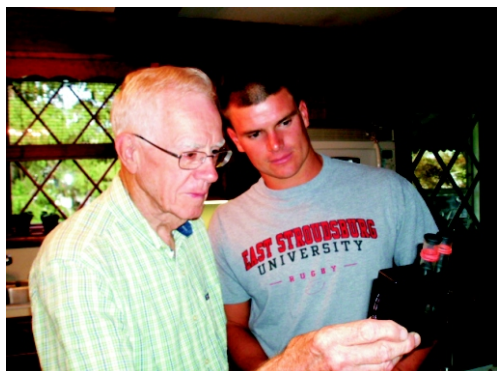
You can meet some of these hardworking members on the BWA website, www.brodheadwatershed.org. Profiles of others will be posted soon.

Working with the Brodhead Watershed Association

by Nick Thornton, ESU Intern

This has been a summer of new experiences for me. Going into my senior year at East Stroudsburg University, I had the opportunity to do comparative testing with the many Streamwatch volunteers of the Brodhead Watershed Association.

Over the summer I was able to test with twenty-eight Streamwatchers at many different locations throughout the Poconos. The combination of the fantastic people that I have met and the remarkable locations I have traveled to this summer far exceed everything I had been anticipating from this internship. It took me only a few weeks to realize the cleanliness of our streams that by and large maintain low levels of nitrate and phosphate.



Nick and Bob Stevens run a test on chemicals used for nitrate monitoring.

With streams as clean as ours, reliable chemicals are essential to achieve accurate results. As many stream watchers know, the quality of the chemicals we use to test for the presence of pollutants has been *the* major dilemma of the year. In an effort to resolve this, Pocono Team Leader Bob Stevens and I spent numerous days testing prepared standards with new batches of chemicals sent in from Hach Chemical Company, BWA's primary supplier. Bob and I made a great team and worked very well together. Bob and Mrs. Stevens were also extremely hospitable to me, making me lunch and dinner on several occasions (thanks again!) and always making sure I was comfortable. The extensive number of tests Bob and I ran essentially confirmed that the Hach nitrate chemicals can be unreliable which has led to changes in BWA's nitrate testing protocol.

This summer has been a wonderful experience. I cannot express my gratitude enough. The knowledge I gained of the Brodhead

Watershed has been indispensable and the people that I have met have been fantastic. It truly takes an organized effort from many people who are willing to donate their time and energy to a selfless cause for an organization to be successful, and that's exactly what the Brodhead Watershed Association has.

HELP SAVE PAPER

The BWA would like to help reduce waste and costs.

Please provide us with your e-mail address so we may send your next copy of Streamlines to you via e-mail.

Send us an e-mail to: brodheadwatershed@verizon.net

With the words: "E-mail Streamlines" in the subject or body of the message.

Rain did not stop BWA's Pocono Creek Clean up on September 23



The invitation? As a sponsoring organization for United Way's Day of Caring, BWA invited community members to help clean up the banks of a portion of Pocono Creek along Shafer Schoolhouse Road that has been degraded by serious, long term illegal dumping.

The dress code? Boots, gloves, rain gear and bug spray.

The project was organized by BWA Board member Kietryn Zychal. Kietryn surveyed this site as part of the PA Cleanways Illegal Dump Survey of Monroe County in the fall of 2010. In Kietryn's opinion the site was one of the worst in our county. "It was heartbreaking to see so much trash (some of it very old) so near a renowned fly fishing spot."

At the time of the survey, Kietryn reported finding between 50 - 100 tires, 10 piles of construction debris (wood, cinderblocks, shingles), bagged trash, electronic appliances (TV's). "I think there was an abandoned portable meth lab as well a bicycle," she said.

Kietryn obtained permission from the landowner and support from Stroud and Monroe County Waste Management Authority. Stroud Township provided dumpsters and equipment and manpower to move heavy trash out of the woods. MCWMA donated coffee and lunch, and Jim Lambert pitched in for the wet, soggy day. United Way partners provided the wonderful volunteers who came from sanofi-pasteur, Northampton Community College, Best Buy and Harsco Industrial/Patterson Kelley. Judy Cherepko from Monroe County Litter Control not only provided gloves and bags, she stayed to help with the hard work. Trout Unlimited members came to help as well.

On September 23, working in sometimes driving rain, the hard working crew filled a 35 yard dumpster with trash and a smaller dumpster with 100 tires. And one illegal dumpsite in Monroe County was cleaned-up.

As Autumn Leaves Fall

by Ellen Davis

Consider the leaf as it falls on your lawn. Leave it alone, and — depending on levels of air, moisture, temperature change, micorganisms, carbon to nitrogen ratio, and pH factor — over the next two years it will help fertilize and create more soil for your lawn. Just running the lawn mower over the leaf speeds the process. Clipped grass compliments the leaf choppings in the composting process to add nitrogen to the soil. The result? Applied fertilizer usage can be reduced by 33% — not only saving you money but also reducing the amount of oxygen-depleting nitrates that flow into our waters.

Now consider our streams. Falling leaves provide critical carbon and organic matter for bacteria, fungi, and those *benthic invertebrates* (i.e., animals without backbones critical to aquatic food chain that live on rocks, logs, sediment, debris and aquatic plants during some period in their life) that fish enjoy.

This is where our headwater streams come up. In the small, well shaded headwaters such as the Tank Creek, Leavitt Branch, McMichael Creek, Mountain Run, Pond Creek, and Scot Run as much as 75% of organic food base comes from the organic compounds supplied by forests. In these headwaters, cool temperatures and shaded waters don't allow much plant growth so leaves and other debris falling into the streams provide the plant matter that larvae/ nymphs of craneflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies will chew up, digest, and excrete.

So consider the leaf as it falls. If you love fishing, a fallen leaf in the stream contributes to the start of the food chain to produce that trout you hope to hook. If you are a lawn owner, a fallen leaf can add nitrogen to the grass you mow.

And, if, like me, you are a BWA Streamwatcher, a falling leaf can even inspire you to stop and enjoy the beauty of a fallen leaf floating on the water. Enjoy!

Update on Sambo Creek Renaming Effort

by Kietryn Zychal

The BWA welcomes our new board member Dr. Christopher Brooks to lead our effort to rename Sambo Creek.

Chris is a faculty member in the history department at East Stroudsburg University, specializing in constitutional law. He received his Dr. Phil. at the University of Kassel in Germany and is fluent in the German language. Dr. Brooks will be writing a series of articles on the historical inaccuracy of using “placeholders” like “Sambo” to refer to people of African descent. The BWA plans to host a symposium during the upcoming academic year to highlight the long history of African Americans in Monroe County so that we may learn the names of some of the people who came here centuries ago. Surely, a real person's name would be a better choice for the creek's name.

Our board member, Bob Labar, has been testing the water quality in Sambo Creek with his 7th grade students from J.T. Lambert school for the past few years. His students are enthusiastic supporters of the effort to rename the creek, and will be participating in the project as a service learning project.



Dr. Christopher Brooks

Where is Sambo Creek?

Sambo Creek begins in Middle Smithfield Township and enters Brodhead Creek in the Borough of East Stroudsburg. A 302 million gallon reservoir in the headwaters of Sambo Creek- built in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA)- provides East Stroudsburg and parts of Stroud and Smithfield townships with drinking water. Because of its importance as a life-sustaining

waterway, Sambo Creek is an important symbol in Monroe County. *Why rename this creek?*

Some of you may recall BWA's efforts to draw attention to the creeks in the watershed through the grant-supported process of posting signs identifying the creeks in places where county roads crossed the creeks. Shortly after the Sambo Creek sign was posted, complaints about the use of a racist name were received and the signs were stolen.

In 2008, I submitted a petition to the United States Geological Survey (as an individual—not on behalf of the BWA) to rename the creek “Reservoir Run.” I did this after receiving information from a colleague at the Pocono Record, Dave Pierce, that Sambo Creek was listed as “N*gger Run” on an antique map he saw on the wall of the District Magistrate's office in Middle Smithfield Township. I said to him, “You've got to be kidding me.” He said he looked at the map carefully, and he was pretty sure it was where Sambo Creek was located, though there was no water reservoir pictured on the map.

He was partially right. The creek with the N-word is currently an unnamed tributary to Sambo Creek that flows through Lake Valhalla. Eventually, I located the antique map in the 1874 Beers Atlas, available at the Hughes Library or the Monroe County Historical Society. When I filed the petition with USGS in 2008, I assumed that everyone would approve of changing the name of Sambo Creek, given that one of its tributaries was formerly called by the N-word.

The name Reservoir Run did not meet with universal approval among the elected officials and county employees who were asked to comment by USGS. According to USGS files, only 3 of the 7 municipal officials who were asked to comment on the proposed name change supported it. One person rejected the idea commenting that it was “taking political correctness too far.” John Donahue, Superintendent of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, concurrently submitted a petition to rename Sambo Island in the Delaware River to Turtle Island.

USGS did not approve either name change. In 2010, I asked the BWA to join me in supporting the name change, and to help find a name that would meet with community approval. Bob Labar stepped up to the plate with his students and now Chris Brooks has joined us as well.

We will keep you posted on Chris's articles and the symposium.

Up and Down the Brodhead

by Mary E. Price

*Up and down the Brodhead
That's the place to be
When summer's hot and dusty
And trout are swimming free;
Pull 'em in and think about
The friends you used to know;
Up and down the Brodhead
Let your memory go.*

*Up and down the Brodhead,
Bait your hook and sigh,
Skeeters buzzing overhead,
Trout a-skimming by.
Up with the first of morning,
You and Jim and Bill,
Up and down the Brodhead
Into the morning chill.*

*Up and down the Brodhead,
How the hours flew
With the current 'gainst your waders,
Meeting friends you knew;
And you called to them in passing,
“How's your luck today?”
Up and down the Brodhead,
That's the place to play.*

*Up and down the Brodhead,
Trudging home at night,
Basket swinging full of fish,
Waders getting tight;
Match your fish with Jim and Bill,
Tell them whom you met,
Up and down the Brodhead
Days you won't forget.*

*Up and Down the Brodhead,
Sit by the evening blaze;
Smoke your pipe and drink a bit
To pals of other days:
Pals you've lost in the rush of life,
Sportsmen fine and true,
Up and down the Brodhead
In memory wait for you.*

Rain Barrel Provides Comfort During Irene Blackout

by Rob Sedwin

Who would have thought that my investment in a rain barrel would have so many benefits? When I decided to make my water barrel it was the result of my need to educate myself in order to pass knowledge along and also to be a better steward of my little piece of the watershed by conserving water and reducing runoff to nearby streams.

Building and ownership has been rewarding, especially since I have no water spigot on my deck where all my house plants are set out during the summer months. My water barrel sits prominently at the far end of this outside extension of my home and has become the main source of water for keeping my plants watered during the growing season. It has also become a source of water for the dogs as they like to use the dog door to go out of the house and sun on the deck.

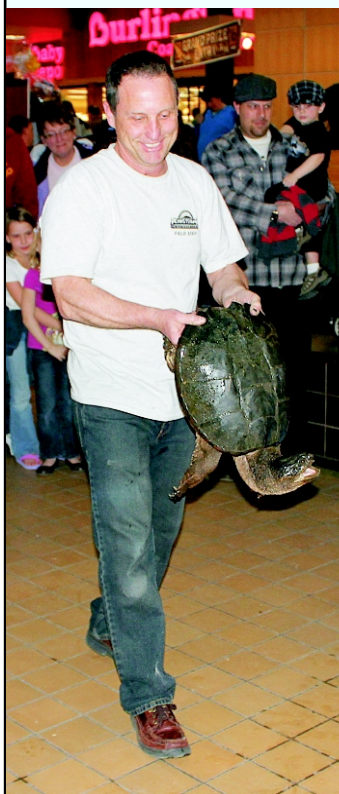
Hurricane Irene created another reason to value my recycled Greek olive barrel and respect its simple value as a water collection device. My home water supply is well supplied and run by electricity, when the storm landed in the Poconos, my home along with tens of thousands others was left without power for 5 days or more. No water!

My family and I decided to stay the first 2 nights anticipating a quick return to our power. One or two days without showers were doable as long as our toilets were working. We brushed our teeth with bottled water (even though the guilt was almost overwhelming) but we were able to flush the toilets with water supplied by our faithful, always filled water barrel. Unfortunately, the term of the power outage caused us to stay and shower at other locations after the 3rd day without power. The visits back home to check on things was less stressful with the ability to take a bathroom break.

Our rain barrel was a small but critical component of comfort during our 5 days without power. Now I am hoping to create a way to filter this water to eliminate the need for the unfriendly bottles of water that we were dependent on for internal consumption. Thank you rain barrel and to the BWA for educating me on a great resource and practice that adds one more item to the list of reducing my carbon footprint and saving the water in the Brodhead Watershed.



Save Sunday December 11 for "The Hidden Treasures of the Pocono Plateau" with Rick Koval, at Pocono Community Theater from 2 to 3:30 pm



Rick now writes the Sunday Pocono Record Naturalist articles, doing a great job filling John Serrao's shoes. His program will illustrate the importance of our watersheds and showcases "not often seen" rare plants and animals that he has found and photographed while conducting wildlife inventories in the Poconos. Rick was introduced to the BWA family at our Fall luncheon at Shawnee and looks forward to spending more time with us.

More details on the BWA website, www.brodheadwatershed.org coming soon.

Encourage a Friend to Join Today

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Preferred method of receiving BWA news & info:

Regular Mail ☐ E-mail ☐ 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.

BWA to offer “stewardship” grants to students for studies in our watershed

Starting in the spring of 2012, BWA will begin taking applications for “stewardship” grants designed to promote student research related to the conservation of Pocono watersheds. Of particular interest are projects in the Brodhead Watershed.

No particular field of study is specified and may range from biology and chemistry to environmental education and communication. Both graduate and undergraduate students may apply. However, all projects must be conducted under the supervision of a faculty member of a university, college or community college.

Funding may be used to pay for non-standard equipment needed to complete a research project, travel to and from a research site, presentation of the completed project or similar uses.

Funding for this new program comes primarily from donations to the BWA made to honor the work and commitment of a variety of individuals, most recently our beloved and recently deceased Dr. Jeri Jewett Smith. BWA anticipates awarding grants of between \$250 and \$500.

For more information, contact BWA,
brodheadwatershed@verizon.net

Calendar

Saturday, October 22 – Volunteers needed at the Josie Porter Farm for a day of removing invasive plants and planting natives. Join the BWA and Josie Porter Farm as we together learn about invasive plants, and how we can encourage natives. Call 839-1120, or visit www.brodheadwatershed.org or <http://www.josieporterfarm.com/> for details.

Saturday, October 29 – Drug Take-back Day at local Police Departments. Drop off your unused or expired prescription drugs for safe disposal – and keep them out of local waterways. Contact your police department or visit <http://thewasteauthority.com/> for more info.

Sunday, December 11 – Pocono Community Theater, Treasures of the Poconos with Rick Koval.

Want to contact us?

Phone: 570-839-1120

E-mail: brodheadwatershed@verizon.net

Web: www.brodheadwatershed.org