

Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2018



Our new board members, from left: Ruth Ann Rocchio, James Smith, Marilyn Detrick, Deborah Huffman

WELCOME!

Four more on BWA board

Brodhead Watershed Association has elected four new members for its board of directors, each with unique backgrounds and talents to support the organization's science-based education and advocacy.

The election and induction were held at the annual BWA Members & Friends Celebration, Sept. 28 at Aquatopia. The new directors are:

MARILYN DETRICK, M. Ed., of Stroudsburg, recently retired from 36 years in the education field with the focus of special education. She spent her career working with children and families and would like to continue to support the community through the

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THANK YOU!



John Smith



Al Johnson

Two longtime, hard-working members have retired from BWA's board. Al Johnson and John Smith, who also served as BWA president, have stepped back to scale down their busy schedules. They will remain as BWA members.

Thank you, Al and John, for all you've done for BWA!

Legal victory for clean streams

Recently, PennFuture and the Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) won a battle for clean streams in the Poconos when a challenge to the "Exceptional Value" of four streams was dismissed by the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB).

The case was brought by a coalition of Monroe County developers and businesses, spuriously calling themselves the Monroe County Clean Streams Coalition, who challenged the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) independent analyses and conclusions that four streams in Monroe County had an existing use of "Exceptional Value," which affords those streams the highest protections from degradation.

"Today, clean water advocates and businesses that rely on clean water for their existence – the true protectors of Pocono's streams – prevailed," said Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture president and CEO. "PennFuture knows that clean streams are important to our environment, our health, and our economy. We will continue to stand up against those who threaten our most pristine Pennsylvania resources."

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Ken Schurman/VIP Studios

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

BWA held its 29th annual Members & Friends Celebration on Friday, Sept. 28, at Aquatopia. About 150 people attended the event and enjoyed gourmet food, drinks and a huge silent auction fundraiser. Keynote speaker Jacqui Bonomo, CEO of PennFuture, addressed how grassroots efforts can make a difference in climate change. The family of John Riley accepted the inaugural John Riley Friend of the Watershed Award, awarded to him posthumously for his lifelong dedication to the environment.

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BWA to help ensure a clean environment for the future. She is married, with two grown daughters and two beautiful granddaughters. She spends her free time gardening, creating stained-glass pieces and traveling.

"Being a board member for the Brodhead Watershed Association would allow me to support my community for a clean environment through meaningful practices with community involvement and scientific data to ensure potable water and water-based activities for the future," Marilyn said.

DEBORAH HUFFMAN is a native of Monroe County and alumna of East Stroudsburg High School. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Boston College and her juris doctorate from Northeastern University in Boston, Mass.

Following law school, Deborah served as a law clerk for the Honorable Robert C. Chambers, United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

In 2006, Deborah returned home to Monroe County and worked as an associate with a local law firm. In 2013, Deborah joined her current partners and in 2014 they formed Weitzmann, Weitzmann & Huffman, LLC,

where her practice is focused on the areas of family law, municipal law, real estate and civil litigation. In 2014, Deborah was appointed by the Court to serve as the Protection from Abuse advocate for Monroe County. In addition to her professional work, Deborah also serves as vice chair for the Act 137 Affordable Housing Board.

Deborah continues to call Monroe County home with her husband, Richard Schlameuss, and their three children.

"My family has called Monroe County home for generations," said Deborah. "I would like to be a part of the Brodhead Watershed Association to help preserve our natural resources for my children and future generations."

RUTH ANN ROCCHIO is a substitute teacher at Monroe Career & Technical Institute, where she also serves on the Occupational Advisory Committee for the marketing and hotel/restaurant hospitality program. In 2016, she retired as an events manager after 26 years at Patterson-Kelley. Ruth Ann has a bachelor's degree in communications from Northern Illinois University and an MBA from DeSales University.

She is a past president of the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs. Ruth Ann started and continues to organize Rotary's Day on the Stream for disabled veterans participating in both the Wilkes-

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Intervenors PennFuture and BWA joined DEP's motion to dismiss the legal challenge, arguing that merely putting a waterbody on DEP's "Existing Use List" does not amount to a final agency action for which the EHB has jurisdiction. The EHB agreed and dismissed the coalition's case in its entirety.

"In the Brodhead watershed, we are blessed with exceptional streams, which are known to our residents and visitors to this region. Even more importantly, protections for these streams are provided through DEP's existing use process after rigorous scientific evaluation. Those that deny such things must now recognize this, and we can and will have smart economic growth in step with environmental protections," said Bob Heil, executive director of BWA.

Barre VA and the Kunkletown Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing programs.

Her volunteerism also includes: volunteer coordinator for VALOR Clinic Foundation's Veteran's Unstoppable Retreat; Paul's House (VALOR Clinic Foundation) Support Team; secretary for the Kunkletown Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program; the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited; and a life member of the Associates of Viet Nam Veterans of America.

"Living in the Poconos since 1990 and being involved in fly fishing, I appreciate the high-quality streams we have in this area," Ruth Ann said. "I feel that protecting those waterways is crucial to the success of our region both for our economy and our health. As part of the board, I feel like I can make a difference by bringing awareness to the issues that surround our watershed and help protect and implement positive change."

JAMES SMITH is Stroudsburg Borough Council president and an employee of the state Department of Transportation. He was a board member for Pocono Family YMCA for three years, and a former football and soccer coach. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoys fishing, hunting, camping, biking, hiking and kayaking. He has a son and a daughter.

James is joining BWA's board because he is a "strong believer in preserving our natural resources and environment."

'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.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Bob Heil

We're lucky; let's keep it that way

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a two-day kayak paddle of the lower Delaware River. Quite an adventure of 29 miles over two days, culminating in a paddle beneath the Ben Franklin bridge and arriving at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia. An intriguing story of a great river, once tainted by industrialization and now making a remarkable comeback, evidenced by the bald eagles and osprey along the way.

My takeaway lesson was all the things I saw that we don't have in our watershed: combined sewer overflows, gigantic stormwater discharge pipes, landfills and brownfields along the flood plain, etc. It comes back to the fact that those of us who live here might assume our Pocono waters will always be clean, untarnished and never in need of remediation. But we can't take that lucky situation for granted.

At the Brodhead Watershed Association, we constantly strive to educate the public that only through advocacy, good planning and vigilance of existing standards can we protect our existing waters. We thank you for your continuing support.



BWA will move into this office at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

Coming (really) soon: New office for BWA

Brodhead Creek Heritage Center is almost ready for BWA to move in! Major construction is complete, with only a few things left to do before occupancy.

Note that BWA's contact information will remain the same!

A joint project of Stroud Township and nonprofits Brodhead Watershed Association and Pocono Heritage Land Trust, the center will

provide space at the preserve for offices, public events, nature displays and a fly fishing exhibit.

The new center is at the 40-acre ForEvergreen Nature Preserve, owned by Stroud Township. It is open to the public dawn to dusk and includes walking/running paths and access to Brodhead Creek for catch-and-release fly fishing.

For information or to donate, visit brodheadcreekheritage.org or call BWA at 570-839-1120 or PHLT at 570-424-1514.

CALENDAR

SIGNS OF WILDLIFE AT NOTHSTEIN PRESERVE

(a free Water Wiser Kids event)
8 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 10

Enhance your outdoors observational skills during this nature walk with Darryl and Jackie Speicher. For kids and their families. To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727. Email info@brodheadwatershed.org or see brodheadwatershed.org/WaterWiser.html.

WHAT IS A DRY DAM?

(a free Get Outdoors Poconos event)
10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 18

Learn about dry dams – and explore one that’s not usually open to the public. To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727. Email info@brodheadwatershed.org or see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

A WINNING TEAM



BWA board members Craig Todd (left) and Don Baylor were recently recognized at the 28th Northeastern Pennsylvania Annual Environmental Partnership Awards.

Don received an Environmental Partnership Award for excellence in environmental protection and conservation in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Craig is the third BWA board member to earn the prestigious Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award, in recognition of his commitment to environmental quality and for being an inspiring leader and champion of partnering.

Congratulations, Don and Craig!

Welcome, new members!

Susan Alloway of Lansdale; Carol Armstrong of Malvern; Bruce & Andrew Bonner/Leschak of Philadelphia; Georgine Bortz of Swiftwater; Robert Brucker of Canadensis; Joanne Bruno and Richard Sentipal of East Stroudsburg; Trish D’Imperio of Stroudsburg; Leonard Forte of Effort; David Fox of Stroudsburg; Brian Gallagher of Cresco; Peggy Germino of East Stroudsburg; Howard Goldstein of Stroudsburg; Robert Hartman of Swiftwater; Marianne Higgins of Shawnee-on-Delaware; Deborah Huffman of Stroudsburg; Kyle Kaye of Pineville; Cheryl Keppel of Henryville; Amy Kromer of Effort; Kassondra Lewandowski of Bensalem; Barbara Licznarski of Stroudsburg; Sue Lyons of East Stroudsburg; Tom Malanga of Clark, N.J.; Tina Merli of Old Forge; Adam Niewood of East Stroudsburg; Brian Nolan of Stroudsburg; Kimberly Riley of Stroudsburg; Michelle & Michael Riley of East Stroudsburg; Emily Rinaldi of Throop; Jim & Maureen Rinehimer of Pocono Pines; Ruth Ann & John Rocchio of Bushkill; Kristen Roth of Wind Gap; Jim Schick of Stroudsburg; Ken Schurman of Mount Pocono; Greg & Judy Secord of Hartford, Conn.; Julia Anne Shackleton of Franklinville, N.J.; Ann & David Super of Stroudsburg; Boyd Weiss of Stroudsburg; Lawrence & Donna Yozwiak of Saylorsburg

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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