

### PMC strikes a blow against polluted stormwater runoff

There are countless threats to the water we need to survive. Some of them are obvious, others harder to see. We have tried to control these self-induced threats by designating them as either Point Source Pollution (PS) or Non-point Source Pollution (NPS).

One of the first tasks under-taken by the Environmental Protection Agency was development of regulatory guidelines to limit the amount of pollutants that could be discharged from pipes. These regulations are enforced through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. The program also included erosion control measures of sites under construction.

NPDES regulations have evolved to include trying to control runoff from fields, roof tops, roadways and parking lots, which have contributed greatly to the pollution we find in our streams. But how can you put a permit limit on what comes off a parking lot?

The NPDES Phase II program requires that projects that create impervious surfaces, like parking lots, must now use alternatives to catch and release direct discharges of storm water. These types of development are now being designed with innovative ways of capturing runoff before it can get into our streams.

Signs in the new parking lot at the Pocono Medical Center in East Stroudsburg inform users of the pervious pavement in what just a few years ago would have been impervious. This type of pavement allows water to seep through the asphalt where it can be infiltrated back into the ground or stored for slower discharge, allowing sediment to fall out of the water before entering the stream. In addition to the porous pavement they have installed rain gardens instead of traditional detention basins. The vegetation in the rain garden allows for pollution uptake while the soils allow for greater infiltra-



tion. The BWA commends the Pocono Medical Center for using such enlightened alternatives to traditional storm water management now that we know it will help protect our streams. We hope that all developers in the watershed follow their lead in adhering to the intent, and spirit of the NPDES program as we all look to find the proper balance between water resource protection and economic development we all desire.

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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### May 9 & 10: Time to go native again

The Brodhead Watershed Association hosts its annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 10, at Northampton Community College in Tannersville. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with more than 100 species of plants for sale, vendors and special activities for children.

A special preview and 10 percent discount sale for BWA members only will be held on Friday, May 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the same location. You can join the BWA for the preview sale by becoming a member on-line at [http://www.brodhead-watershed.org/form\\_member.html](http://www.brodhead-watershed.org/form_member.html)

The theme for the 2014 sale "Plant This Not That" will focus on the power of native plants versus invasive plants in our landscapes. An invasive plant is an introduced species which has become a pest in the natural environment. Invasive plants grow aggressively, crowd out native plants, and compete with the natives for sun, moisture and minerals. Replacing invasives with native plants returns the environment to a more original state. This benefits the soil, waters, native insects and wildlife which



Rudbeckia will be one of the many ways to go native evolved successfully with native plants within that original landscape. Two special programs will precede the plant sale festival. BWA members and the public are cordially invited to participate in both. On Thursday, May 1, Vince Cotrone from Penn State Cooperative

Extension will present "What's Invading Our Watershed?" a workshop on identifying and controlling such invasives as Japanese Knotweed, Tree of Heaven and Mile-a-minute Vine. The workshop is at Northampton Community College on Mill Road in Tannersville from 7 - 8:30 p.m. The charge is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members.

Interested in seeing invasive plants and their native alternatives up close and personal? Then join naturalists Don Miller, Robin Petras and Linda Ross Besecker on a walk in the Paradise Creek Watershed on Saturday, April 26, from 1-4 p.m. Participants will discover the "good, the bad and the ugly" among native, invasive and ornamental plants on the grounds of Ross and Ross Nursery on Rt. 191 in Paradise Valley. To register for the walk, please call the BWA office at 570-839-1120. The charge is \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members.

More information on all this is available at [www.brodhead-watershed.org/nativeplantsale.html](http://www.brodhead-watershed.org/nativeplantsale.html) Come join us and go native with native plants!



### 33 trained for 'Stream-watch' program

Ellen Davis, BWA Streamwatch Coordinator, shows new volunteers the tricks of the trade. Thirty-three new and present volunteers attended training sessions in March.

**Thank you to our Plant Sale sponsors:**

Colonial Auto Sales  
Cook's Corner Restaurant  
Desaki Restaurant

There is still time to become a sponsor. Inquire at [info@brodheadwatershed.org](mailto:info@brodheadwatershed.org) or call (570) 839 1120

## 2014 Spring-Summer Events

**Saturday, April 26, 1 - 4 pm:** "Plant This! Not That!" Hike— Ross and Ross Nursery, Paradise Valley. This prelude hike to BWA's May Native Plant Sale will explore "the good, the bad and the ugly" of a changing plant landscape and provide plant identification information for invasive plants and landscape tips for "growing native". Please pre-register at [info@brodheadwatershed.org](mailto:info@brodheadwatershed.org).

**Thursday, May 1st, 7 - 9 pm:** "Plant This! Not That!" workshop, Northampton Community College, Tannersville. Vince Cotrone, Penn State Cooperative Extension, explains how to identify and control exotic plants and suggest native plants to use as replacements. Please pre-register at [info@brodheadwatershed.org](mailto:info@brodheadwatershed.org).

**May 9th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm:** Native Plant Sale - BWA members only preview night. Northampton Community College, Tannersville. Members get 10 percent discount and choose from the best selection of plants. Visit [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org) for more info.

**Saturday, May 10th, 10 am - 3 pm:** Native Plant Sale—Public Day. 100's of plants to choose from. Northampton Community College, Tannersville. Visit [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org) for more info.

**Saturday, May 17th, 10 am - 5 pm:** Spring Festival at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge at Moreton Farm

Homestead property. Sponsored by Friends of Cherry Valley. [www.friendsofcherryvalley.com/](http://www.friendsofcherryvalley.com/)

**Saturday, May 31, 5 - 8 pm:** Millpond 1 Kayak Paddle Tobyhanna Township. Registration and info at [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org)

**Saturday, June 14, 10 am - 5 pm:** Cherry Valley Festival at Josie Porter Farm. A family day at an organic farm with talks, walks and activities presented by local and regional conservation organizations. Environmentally themed vendors, arts and crafts, live entertainment with strolling musicians, food and beverages round out the day. Visit [www.josieporterfarm.com](http://www.josieporterfarm.com) and [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org) for details of the day.

**Saturday June 28, 1 - 4 pm:** Flyfishing for beginners with Don Baylor and Trout Unlimited friends, on the Brodhead Creek.

**Sunday, June 22, 1 - 4 pm:** Summer Solstice Walk along Swiftwater Creek at Lake Swiftwater Club property.

**Saturday, July 12, 1 - 4 pm:** Slaughterhouse Bend on McMichael Creek.

For more info and registration details for hikes and programs visit [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org).

## President's Corner

Spring is here. Floods can happen. Streamwatchers be careful.

Maybe that should be the end message, but it begs the question, "how much water has fallen in the Brodhead Watershed?" Some quick (admittedly flawed) estimates: Watershed area=312 square miles; Rainfall year-to-date=5-10 inches (NWS); Area of East Stroudsburg +Stroudsburg = 2.5 +1.8 =4.3 square miles. If 5" of rain and snowmelt suddenly rushed into the Burgs, they would be 30 feet underwater!

As much of that water as possible should go into the re-charge zones to maintain our water supply. Preventing erosion, limiting pavements, maintaining riparian buffers all help the process of recharge, and help maintain the high water quality in the streams that we have come to expect in this watershed.

BWA members should all be proud of the job that BWA's Streamwatch program has done through the years. This spring they will be out there again, sounding the clarions at the first sign of lowered water quality. Join me in celebrating their passion for the watershed. Thank you Streamwatchers ... and be careful out there.

*John Smith*

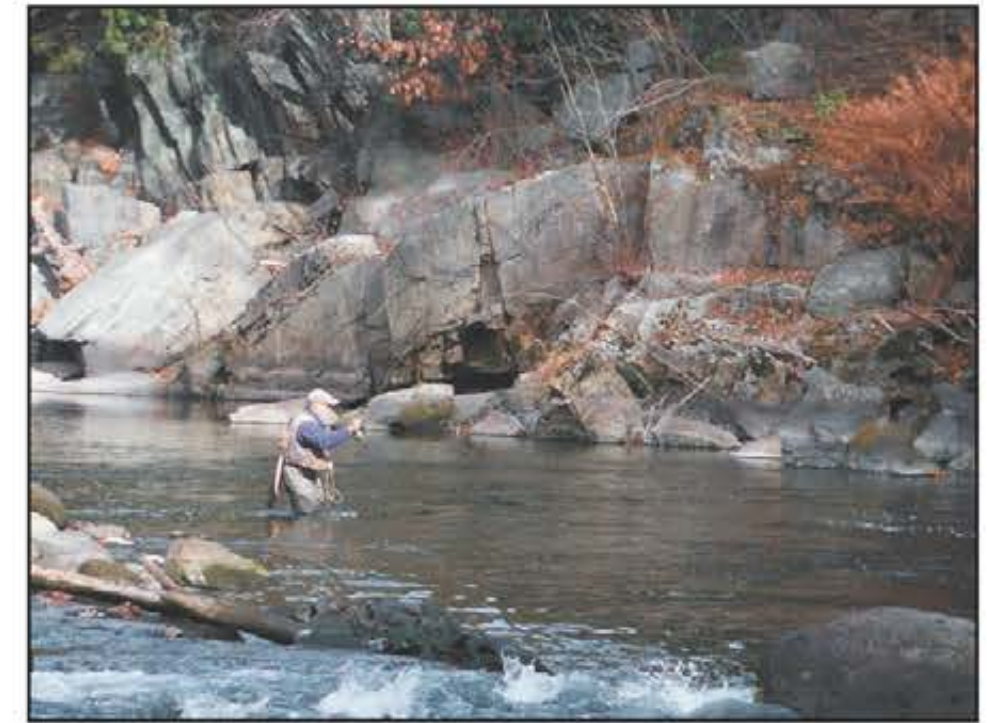
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## Better water quality likely for 'The Gorge' on Brodhead Creek

By Don Baylor

Long-time local anglers referred to it as "The Gorge." It is a spectacularly wild section of the Brodhead Creek between the Stroudsburg-East Stroudsburg interborough bridge and the Rock-Tenn Paper Mill near Delaware Water Gap. Very little of this wild stream segment is visible without traveling on foot from top, bottom, or down a steep decline from one of the bordering ridges. Looking downstream as you cross the Interstate 80 bridge just east of Stroudsburg, you can see the Brodhead make a sharp bend to the east at the beginning of the gorge. A few miles farther east, at the next bridge crossing, you can see a portion of the lower end of the gorge upstream and the Rock-Tenn Paper Mill below.

Through the gorge, having gathered the combined flows of Pocono Creek and McMichael Creek in Stroudsburg, the Brodhead flows large through deep green pools and boulder-strewn riffles. The joining of Brodhead and McMichael Creek waters can be seen looking



Don Baylor in The Gorge

upstream from the Route 80 crossing near Stroudsburg. Though much of the Brodhead escaped its bed, forming totally new configurations in recent floods, it has remained little changed through the confined ledge and boulder structure in the gorge.

The east side of the gorge is traversed by an active rail line. On the west side, from Glen Park, one can easily hike or bike the remains of an old rhododendron-lined rail bed halfway down the gorge to a point where the rail bed disappears in an old wash-out. At the lower extremity of this rail bed, the Brodhead contains the remains of a one-time power generation dam. This dam and one that confined the Brodhead above the paper mill are long gone, but the aprons and wings of the dams remain. My friend Bob Lambert, a native of Delaware Water Gap, had a grandfather who, years ago, manned the power dam daily by hiking over the ridge from that town. The height and length of the power dam impoundment was made clear to me when Bob related his grandfather's story of a winter's ice skating foray all the way from the dam to the interborough bridge. Years ago, I recall returning home with a few treasured crystals after visiting an old


quartz quarry in the gorge near today's Interstate 80 Marshall's Creek exit.

My neighbor often came home with stories of large specimens he saw caught near the mill. Years later, I frequently haunted the gorge with fly rod, often remaining well after dark to stalk some of those large brown trout. In recent years, I forsook flyfishing the gorge because the once abundant mayflies and caddisflies that brought the fish to the surface had largely disappeared as water quality declined. During late summer low flows, the Brodhead below Rock-Tenn to the Delaware was coated with sewage fungus, looking like bank-to-bank shag carpet.

With Brodhead Creek Regional Authority's new state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant on line and significant improvement in Brodhead water quality below Rock-Tenn, the fishery in the gorge may be on the mend. The resilient Brodhead through Stroudsburg and into the gorge still needs care and remediation from stormwater run-off and a variety of point source discharges. The Brodhead Watershed Association has high hopes of a renaissance for the lower Brodhead.

### Wild Trout Waters Catch and Release Encouraged

These waters are not stocked. The fish population consists of wild brown and brook trout, which depend on successful natural reproduction. The larger trout in the population are the most efficient spawners, because larger females produce greater numbers of eggs. Wild trout - and especially our native brook trout - have suffered severely from man-made impacts to their environment. Excessive harvest of mature fish would negatively impact the trout population and severely limit the recreational value of this important resource. Please consider returning all trout to the water immediately.



Wild Brook Trout



Wild Brown Trout

Wild trout require only clean water shaded by riparian forests and protected from sediment-carrying runoff by naturally vegetated buffers. In addition to cold, clear water, wild trout require cover for protection from predators, foraging sites where they expend little energy while the current brings their drifting insects, and clean spawning gravel free from sediment where eggs can be deposited and remain well oxygenated by stream flow.

When compared with wild trout, stocked trout have a poor survival rate in flowing water. Stocked trout have been bred for rapid growth in the hatchery environment. They do not adapt readily to efficient feeding in the natural stream environment. Therefore, wild trout in this stream are an irreplaceable resource. Please help us protect these wild trout.

