

Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2017

Meet our new board members

At the Brodhead Watershed Association's annual Members & Friends Celebration, held Sept. 29 at Pocono Manor, the board of directors welcomed 10 new members.

Here is a glimpse of these leaders:



DAMARY BONILLA-RODRIGUEZ is a national authority on leadership development, especially as it pertains to diversity and inclusion. Damary holds a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish and social work from the College of New Rochelle. She also holds a Master of Science degree in organizational communications and a specialized certification in corporate communications, both from the College of New Rochelle. Her doctorate in education from St. John Fisher College focuses on executive leadership.

Damary ran for state representative in the 189th District of Pennsylvania in the 2016 election cycle, where she became the first Hispanic to make a state ballot in two counties (Pike and Monroe). She is a board member of Latina VIDA, Latinas on the Plaza, and Los Compadres Modern Caballero. She is also

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Ed MacIntosh, left, and Doug Leies (a BWA board member) have been mowing, cutting and grooming trails in Paradise Township all summer and autumn. (Carol Hillestad photos)

Blazing trails in Paradise

By Carol Hillestad

"I've been there often, but I'd like to know my way around better, maybe take my boys," said Pete Niering of Paradise Township on a cool October morning. "Where can I get one of those maps?"

Pete was talking about Paradise-Price Preserve, the 777-acre natural area owned and managed by Paradise and Price townships. The preserve straddles the ridge between the Brodhead and Cran-

berry creeks and protects their water quality.

Paradise hired Doug Leies and Ed McIntosh to spend the summer and early fall laying out, cutting, grooming, and blazing trails at preserved natural areas throughout the township – Paradise-Price Preserve among them. Monroe County Planning Commission helped by mapping the finished trails at Paradise-Price, and BWA helped

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Doug Leies and Paradise Township Supervisor Gary Konrath apply signs to Paradise Township trails.

BOARD

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an advisory board member for several organizations, including The Board of Hispanic Caucus Chairs and the Alliance for Positive Youth Development. She was recently appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf to serve on his statewide commission on Latino affairs.

Damary lives in Bushkill with her husband, Robert, and 7-year-old twin boys, Caleb and Joshua.



BRITTNEY COLEMAN grew up in the Poconos, where she discovered a deep love and appreciation for the natural world in the forests and open green spaces near Beltzville State Park and Penn Forest Reservoir. Her passion for protecting wildlife and the valuable ecosystems she grew up around led her to study law, environmental studies, and geography at East Stroudsburg University. She works as an environmental educator for Monroe County Conservation District. Her interests include hiking, whitewater boating, swimming, live music, traveling, and vegetarian cooking. Brittney is grateful to now live in the beautiful Cherry Valley with her fiancé, Ken, and their pets.



MATT CONNELL has served as dean of the Monroe Campus of Northampton Community College since 1998; from 1994 to 1998, he served as associate dean. He was an adjunct faculty member at Wilkes University and Marywood University, and is an adjunct at Northampton Community College. He serves as a peer reviewer, book reviewer, and a member of the editorial board of the Community College Journal of Research and Practice. He also is as a member of Middle States Accreditation Visiting Teams, recently visiting Rockland Community College in New York.

Matt chairs the Monroe County 2030 Action Team, the Youth Employment Services Board of Directors, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board. He chaired the Board of Directors of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA Alliance), the Board of Directors of the United Way of Monroe County, the Executive Committee of the Wall Street West/WIRED Initiative, and the Board of Directors of the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce.

Matt holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas, an M.A. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. from Bloomsburg University. He is married to Evelyn Baxevane and lives in Brodheadsville. He and his wife are the proud parents of three children.



RICH CRAMER is a retired educator, having served as a superintendent, assistant principal and middle school mathematics teacher. He holds a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University and a master's degree from Montclair University. Aside from his administrative and teaching roles, he also developed an outdoor education program for his school district. He serves on the board of directors for the Friends of Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission and volunteers at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Rich is a Monroe County native who spent many summer days swimming in Brodhead Creek. He and his wife, Mary Ellen, have two sons and four grandchildren.



MATTHEW DILGER was raised in and remains a resident of Mountainhome. As an Eagle Scout of Troop 89, he enjoys camping, hiking, and being outdoors, especially in the boundaries of the Brodhead Watershed. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 2015 with a degree in environmental resource management, with minors in watershed and water resources and soil science. He began working for Brodhead Creek Regional Authority in March 2016. Matt continues to work there as a plant operator and leads outreach and educational programs for local students.



FALLON HORAN'S first home was in Chestnuthill Township, but she has spent much of her life moving in and out of the area. Drawn back each time after living in North Jersey, Philadelphia and Baltimore, she eventually realized that there is no place like home and purchased her first house, with husband, Patrick, in Roseto.

Fallon has a bachelor's degree in recreation and leisure services management from East Stroudsburg University. She works for the Monroe County Planning Commission as a community planner and oversees the county's open space program. In her free time, Fallon enjoys kayaking, hiking, gardening and restoring old furniture.



JOHN C. LAYTON is a native of East Swiftwater. John received his B.S. in commerce (accounting) from Rider College (now Rider University). He was an officer in the U.S. Army Finance Corp. He eventually fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming an FBI agent serving in Dallas, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

While in Washington, D.C., John served on the staff of both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. He then became the Inspector General of the Treasury Department and was nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate as the Inspector General of the Department of Energy. John retired in 1998 and returned to the Poconos. He is vice president of the Paradise Historical Society and is a member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI.



ROB SEDWIN moved to Scotrun from New Jersey in the winter of 1991 with his wife, Sally, and daughters Nicole and Hayley, while he was involved in the growing snowboard industry. His local involvement over the years has included PMYSA coach, Camelback ranger and a snowboard instructor. He is past chairman of the Northeast Pennsylvania Technology Information Exchange, past Rotarian and a 2007-08 graduate of the Leadership Pocono class. He has been a member of the BWA since 2008 and was president in 2012 and 2013. He is employed as sales manager for JNR Erosion Control Services.



JENNIFER SHUKAITIS is a lifelong Monroe County resident and the oldest grandchild of former Monroe County Commissioner and environmental advocate Nancy Shukaitis. Jennifer completed her bachelor's degree in biology from East Stroudsburg University and her master's degree from Colorado State University. She works for Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono and Dennis Deshler Accounting.



KATHY UHLER is the director of Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. She became a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in 1980 and has been growing the nonprofit, all-volunteer center ever since. In addition to running the center, she has earned a master's degree in wildlife biology and teaches ecology at Stroudsburg High School. She and her husband, Eric, live in Cherry Valley.

Seasons of success for BWA

Fall. Nothing is more satisfying than when everything “falls” into place.

Our recent membership dinner and silent auction at Pocono Manor was one such event. Thanks to enthusiastic members and friends, dedicated volunteers, and businesses who donated wonderful items and outdoor adventures for our silent auction, it was an evening enjoyed by all.

Our Delaware River Watershed Initiative plan has “fallen into



FROM THE
DIRECTOR

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place,” with our goals for the next three years to include community outreach such as our Get Outdoors Poconos hikes, communicating the importance of clean water and protected spaces, and conversations on

stormwater with businesses and municipalities.

Perhaps most important to our mission of clean water and our vision for the future: our new board members. The BWA Nominating Committee did an excellent job searching for and recruiting a group of highly talented and motivated individuals with a variety of backgrounds. Please read their biographies in this edition.

Indeed, 2018 and beyond is “falling into place” at BWA.



**Wanted:
Social media
manager**

Do you love to post and tweet? The BWA could use your help in managing our social media presence. If you'd like to volunteer, email info@brodheadwatershed.org.

Brodhead Creek Heritage Center: Your help is needed now!

An anonymous donor has pledged to match gifts up to \$50,000 toward construction of the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve, 1539 Cherry Lane Road, Stroud Township.

A joint project of local non-profits Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) and Pocono Heritage Land Trust, the center

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

The match ends Dec. 31, 2017.

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

Architect's
rendering of
the center.



TRAILS

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publicize the trails by organizing a hike to the preserve's waterfall, attended by 57 people.

It's all part of a push by Paradise Township supervisors to help people make use of public lands.

Board Chair Gary Konrath explains: “I'm not much of an outdoorsman myself, but the township has natural areas for public recreation, and for people to be able to use them, we needed trailheads, trails, and accurate maps. Rather than add to the road crew's to-do list,

we decided to hire two full-time seasonal workers. Since June, Doug and Ed have done an outstanding job clearing existing trails and cutting new ones — first the Nothstein Preserve, then the Knauf Farm, Swiftwater Forest Preserve, Paradise-Price, and now the Van Buskirk. I volunteered to oversee the work and then blaze the finished trail.”

Professional engineers and experienced volunteers laid out the trails, using existing routes where possible. Konrath said that the township has kept careful records of how much the project cost — in labor, equipment, supplies, and other costs.

“If other townships have land they want to map, we'll be able to share

what worked for us, and also give them good estimates of costs,” he said.

Since the Open Space Act was amended in 2013, a percentage of those funds can be used for maintenance — everything from building and maintaining trails to creating informative kiosks.

Pete Niering got his map for the Paradise-Price Preserve. You can get yours at the BWA's hiking series website, Get Outdoors Poconos: brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos/index.html. Other maps for Paradise properties are at www.paradisetownship.com.

(Note that Paradise natural areas are part of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunter Access program, and everyone should wear orange in hunting season.)

CALENDAR

WATER WISER KIDS ACTIVITY

(part of the Water Wiser Kids series)

10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18

The weather is no problem for the Indoor Watershed Olympics! At several Olympic "events," kids and their grownups will experiment and test their knowledge of something we all take for granted — good old H₂O. How does water absorb things? Change things? This activity is suitable for elementary-age children accompanied by parent or guardian. Free, but registration is required. To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727. Email info@brodheadwatershed.org or see brodheadwatershed.org/WaterWiser.html.

NOTHSTEIN CRANBERRY CREEK PRESERVE

(a free Get Outdoors Poconos hike)

10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 25

Two newly cleared loop trails include a long stretch with Cranberry Creek in view. This 151-acre preserve protects the creek's pure water and populations of breeding trout. Late fall offers long views through the woods and perfect weather for being outdoors. This moderate hike of about 2 miles includes "primitive" stream crossings, so hikers should be prepared for water. To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727. Email info@brodheadwatershed.org or see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.



MAKING PROGRESS WITH STROUDSBURG POCKET PARK

A portion of the land at the corner of Quaker Alley and Sixth Street, Stroudsburg, owned by Monroe County, will become an urban nature space — a "pocket park" green oasis amid a busy downtown. BWA is assisting in the project and could use your help! See brodheadwatershed.org/StroudsburgPark.html for information.

Welcome, new members!

Damary Bonilla-Rodriguez of Bushkill, Brittney Coleman of Stroudsburg, Matt Dilger of Cresco, Kathryn Fitzgerald of Cresco, Fallon Horan of Roseto, Gary Morris of East Stroudsburg, Mudworks Pottery of Effort, Kevin Newmark of Chestnut Hill, Patricia Santoro of Pocono Summit, Jennifer Shukaitis of Stroudsburg, Matt Sobrinski of Stroudsburg, Patty & Mike Stein of Cresco, Marie & Robert Thomsen of Saylorburg, Rebecca Weidensaul of Philadelphia, Claudette Williams of Mount Pocono

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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