



Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION 1989-2019 **30 years** AUTUMN 2019

Greening Mountainhome

Projects planned to protect Mill Creek

By CAROL HILLESTAD

Mill Creek has been the heart of Mountainhome in Barrett Township for more than 150 years. Industry, fishing, recreation, and scenic beauty in the village have focused along the creek.

Brodhead Watershed Association has received a grant to bring “green” stormwater management practices to the Mountainhome area, according to Bob Heil, executive director of BWA.

“The grant, for \$53,000, comes from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation,” he said, “along with another \$35,000



BEFORE



AFTER

One of the proposed projects: A strip of water-permeable pavers at Mountainhome United Methodist Church's parking lot would help absorb and filter runoff from the roadway.

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Six join BWA board of directors

Brodhead Watershed Association has elected six new members for its board of directors, each with unique backgrounds and talents to support the organization’s advocacy for clean water. The election and induction were held at the annual BWA Members & Friends Celebration, Sept. 13 at Shawnee Inn.



TODD G. BURNS recently retired after 35 years in public education as a science teacher, a building administrator,

and a member of the Central Office staff in Pocono Mountain School District. He

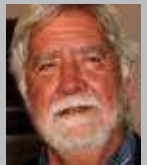
earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Susquehanna University and a master’s degree in education from East Stroudsburg University.

Todd is an avid outdoorsman whose love of the outdoors began at age 4 when he caught his first fish. He grew up camping, hunting, and fishing with family and friends throughout central Pennsylvania prior to moving to the Poconos in 1983. His interests include music and, especially, fly-fishing for

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IN MEMORIAM

John Parker, a BWA member since 2010, a Streamwatcher and a former board member,



passed away in September after an airplane crash. We at BWA honor the memory of our colleague and friend who was so dedicated to serving his community and protecting the environment.

BOARD

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trout in our eastern Pennsylvania waters. Todd serves in the Praise Band, Scholarship Committee and Personnel Committee within his church and is a long-time member of the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He can usually be found somewhere around water!

Upon moving to the Poconos, he discovered the beauty of the Pocono Plateau and the wonders of the mountain streams as they cut through the escarpments on their ways to the Brodhead and beyond.

"The Brodhead watershed, which has so much to offer residents and guests, is a resource that deserves to be protected and nurtured. Being a member of the Brodhead Watershed Association board means I have the responsibility to see that this resource is preserved and enhanced for generations to come."



RYAN HILL is a native of Monroe County and alumnus of Pleasant Valley High School, where he participated in 4-H and Envirothon and grew passionate about the environment. He then served in the Marine Corps as an intelligence analyst before returning to Pennsylvania. He received a bachelor's degree from Penn State in environmental resource management with minors in geospatial information systems and watersheds and water resources.

While pursuing his degree, he worked for Penn State's Agriculture and Environment Center, where he planted and maintained riparian buffers in Lancaster County, and learned firsthand the importance of water quality and the impacts poor water quality can have downstream.

As part of the board, Ryan looks forward to working with people with similar interests and goals of protecting natural resources and working to improve the area he has always called home.



JOE MEMOLI and his family have resided in Middle Smithfield Township since 1988. Joe and his wife have two grown daughters and have been blessed with three healthy and adorable grandchildren.

Professionally, Joe was a career educator in New Jersey for 32 years. He is an alumnus of William Paterson College, having earned a bachelor's degree in social studies and a master's in elementary education. He continued his education at Seton Hall University and Jersey City State and was conferred certificates in school administration.

Upon retirement, Joe was employed by Farleigh Dickinson University as an adjunct professor monitoring the development of student teachers. After leaving the field of education, Joe worked as the downtown manager of the Eastburg Community Alliance from 2006-2008.

Joe volunteers at Dansbury Depot, assisting with the Music on Mondays entertainment program showcasing local talent. Additionally, he is a member of the Economic Development Committee of Middle Smithfield Township.

Joe believes that residents of Poconos have an unparalleled quality of life with pristine surroundings, cultural diversity and a safe environment. He firmly believes it is the responsibility of the current generation to ensure these gifts are passed on to future generations.



TARAH PROBST, mayor of Stroudsburg Borough, was born and raised in East Stroudsburg and has lived in northeastern Pennsylvania her whole life. She earned a bachelor's degree from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, and a law degree in 2003 from Widener University School of Law, taking classes at night while working full time. She returned to Stroudsburg in 2010. She was elected the first female mayor of Stroudsburg Borough and then re-elected by a wide margin.

She serves on the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission, the Codes Committee, the Streets Committee, the I-80 Task Force and the borough's Public Relations Committee.

"Clean, exceptional-quality water is a must in our region, and I am honored to be nominated to the BWA," Tarah said. "I will fight hard and advocate in every way I possibly can to keep our waters the BEST they can be. Progress, respect and honesty are what I strive for every day. It is an honor to be nominated."



EMILY ROLLINSON is an assistant professor of biology at East Stroudsburg University. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from Skidmore College and a doctorate in ecology and evolution from Stony Brook University.

As a plant ecologist, Emily conducts research on riverbank plant communities and the ecological effects of invasive plant species that spread along rivers. At ESU, she teaches courses in ecology, botany, and data analysis. She also mentors both undergraduate and graduate students conducting research in ecology.

Emily is also a member of the organizing committee of the Pennsylvania Botany Symposium, focused on supporting student researchers in botany throughout the state.

"As an ecologist, it is important to me to protect our waterways as a crucial part of a healthy ecosystem," Emily said. "As an educator, there is incredible value in having natural areas in the watershed available for our students to study and to enjoy."



MICHAEL STEIN, MD, is a cardiologist and medical researcher. Mike is a native of Chicago, and, after receiving his medical degree at the University of Illinois and cardiology training at the University of Iowa, was a professor of medicine at Emory University and then the University of Wisconsin. In 2005, Michael left his clinical practice to pursue full-time medical research. He is vice president and head of medical experts and medical standards at Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals.

Mike moved to the Poconos in 2013. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hiking, sailing, adventure travel and hunting. Michael is passionate about sustainability and protecting our environment. He lives with his wife, Patty, in Paradise Township.

"I believe it is vital that we are good stewards of our environment and must use all of our abilities to protect the water, earth and air," Mike said. "Serving on the board of BWA provides me an opportunity to give back to a cause that is so important to me, and help ensure clean water for the current and future generations. I am honored to help BWA in its critical mission to protect and preserve our watershed."

FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

Climate change questions for candidates

By ANN FOSTER

The Brodhead Watershed Association Climate Change Committee recognizes that global warming has local impacts on our watershed and its municipalities. These impacts are likely to grow over the next several decades, affecting land, water, and ultimately human health.

A DETAILED REPORT OF THE CANDIDATES' RESPONSES to the Climate Change Committee's question will appear in an article written by BWA board member Paula Heesch - look for it on our social media pages, emailed monthly newsletter and website (brodheadwatershed.org).

dividends, and taxes. Decreasing our carbon footprint today will benefit the long-term environmental and economic viability of our community as well as the health of its citizens.

The committee sought to give local candidates the opportunity to provide their views on ways to reduce their

members who are running for political office from participation.

Responses were requested by October 21. We received five responses. Their ideas and plans were varied, from something as simple as switching to energy-efficient light bulbs to converting to electric-powered municipal vehicles, and even including the use of solar energy to power parts of their community.

Kudos to those who responded and to those didn't respond but are still feeling their way through this complex and relatively new standard of sustainable communities.

And don't hesitate to ask your current and incoming elected officials about their plans to make your community and watershed a viable and sustainable one - not just for you today, but for generations yet to come.

Throughout Pennsylvania, cities and towns are addressing these impacts by signing resolutions and planning a carbon-free future for their municipality. Not only does this make good environmental sense, it also makes good economic sense as the future is likely to hold carbon use fees,

municipality's carbon footprint, including both short- and long-term planning. With that intent, BWA sent a "Candidates Climate Question" to each municipal and county candidate in Monroe County for their review and consideration. We excluded BWA employees and board

GREEN

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in matching funds. That includes a \$5,000 donation from the Weiler Family Foundation and a \$300 gift from Rotary Club of the Poconos."

The goal, Heil said, is to keep water from heavy rains and snow melt from racing straight into the creek. "By slowing down stormwater and allowing it to infiltrate the soil naturally, we can avoid warming and fouling creek water," he added.

BWA and its project partners - Mountainhome United Methodist Church, Barrett Township, and the Friendly Community Center - will install low-tech, "green" stormwater management infrastructure to protect water in Mill Creek. Studies have shown that the stream has excellent water quality and supports native trout and aquatic creatures that need clean, cold water.

"We're excited to be part of this



BEFORE

Another proposed project: A rain barrel and water-permeable pavers at Barrett Township Municipal Building.



AFTER

project," said Nicole Abrams, director of programming and facilities at the Friendly Community Center. "The plan is to locate two rain barrels here. Rain barrels will capture water as it runs off the roof, so it doesn't stream down our driveway." Abrams is working

with art groups at FCC to decorate the barrels. "So they'll be pretty, and practical, too," she said. "Spigots on the barrels will let me use that water for our gardens."

Other projects will include pavers to replace impervious

surface at Mountainhome United Methodist Church, and a rain garden at Barrett Township Municipal Building. Swales and riparian buffers will be designed to filter runoff, preventing pollutants washed off roads and parking lots from reaching Mill Creek. Local landscapers will install the projects, with volunteer assistance from local groups.

Community workshops are also planned to share ideas with home and business owners so they can put green projects to work protecting creeks near their own properties.

Brodhead Watershed Association will manage the project with guidance from a steering committee made up of Barrett Township residents.

FOR INFORMATION or to find out how to take part, email info@brodheadwatershed.org or call 570-839-1120. For information about green infrastructure, see brodheadwatershed.org/GreenInfrastructure.htm.

CALENDAR

HIKE AT GLEN RUN NATURE PRESERVE

(A free Get Outdoors Poconos event)

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 16, in south Stroudsburg

Carol Hillestad will lead a moderate hike of about 2.5 miles in a preserve that includes a lake, overlooks and the remains of a Victorian inn. The hike is free; registration is required. Call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727; email info@brodheadwatershed.org; see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

SAVE THE DATE!

GIFT WRAP ALTERNATIVES

(Part of the Climate Change Committee event series)

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, 1539 Cherry Lane Road, East Stroudsburg

You don't need rolls of paper to wrap a gift worth giving. Learn how to reuse materials you already have for creative, unique wrapping. Details of this event are to be determined. Watch BWA's website (brodheadwatershed.org/ClimateChange) and monthly emailed newsletter for information closer to the date.

SAVE THE DATE!

HIKE AT TABLE ROCK

(A free Get Outdoors Poconos event)

Saturday, Dec. 14; time to be determined

Carol Hillestad will lead this hike at Table Rock. Details are still being planned. Watch our website, brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos, and monthly emailed newsletter for details.

Welcome, new BWA members!

Kieran Adair of Tobyhanna; Eileen Avruch of Long Pond; Jacqui Bonomo; Lori Cerato of Stroudsburg; Cindy Covington of East Stroudsburg; Jessica DePete of Stroudsburg; Thomas Detweiler of Cresco; Mark & Cheryl Feder of East Stroudsburg; Kristy Galunic of East Stroudsburg; Ryan Hill of East Stroudsburg; Lynda Kaspern of Palmerton; Jamie Levy of Delaware Water Gap; Jacquie Ludka of East Stroudsburg; Carole & Richard Ludwig of East Stroudsburg; John Mayher of Mountainhome; Joe & Donna Memoli of East Stroudsburg; Philip Mosley of Clifton Township; Scott & Marya North of Clifton, Va.; Robert Poles of Cresco; Tarah Probst of Stroudsburg; Kathleen Pruss of Saylorsburg; Frolian Ramirez of Bushkill; Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs; Jenny Rourke of East Stroudsburg; Leslie Sloan of Stroudsburg

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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