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Try it! Scan this QR code.

MERRY HILL HIKE ON NEW YEAR’S DAY
(Where in the Watershed Walk #21)
10 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 1, 2016
BWA Board President Ann Foster will lead this family-friendly hike on the Merry Hill Trail System. Suggested donation: $5 for members; $10 for nonmembers; children under 12 walk for free. Call PHLT at 570-424-1514 or mail info@phlt.org for information and to register.

BIG WOODS NATURAL AREA HIKE
(a free Get Outdoors Poconos hike)
10 a.m. Jan. 23, 2016
Explore the Big Woods in Chestnuthill/Jackson townships. To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727, email info@brodheadwatershed.org, or see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

ZIMMER WILDLIFE PRESERVE HIKE
(a free Get Outdoors Poconos hike)
10 a.m. Feb. 27, 2016
Jackie and Darryl Speicher will lead the way at Zimmer Wildlife Preserve, Mountainhome. To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727, email info@brodheadwatershed.org, or see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

NEW BWA PRESIDENT
Ann Foster: Volunteerism in her nature

By Morgan Natiello

When Ann Foster was a young girl, her father would take her on early-morning hikes along the Appalachian Trail. As an adult, she volunteered with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at Promised Land State Park. Now, she is president of Brodhead Watershed Association and already has plans for the future.

Ann is a determined leader. She graduated from Penn State University with a degree in horticulture and from Northampton Community College as a registered nurse. Following her...
SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Weiler Corporation, a world leader in custom and production brushes and abrasives for industry, has deep hometown roots. Weiler is a fourth-generation, family-owned company, with a tradition dating to 1898, when Joseph Weiler started manufacturing polishing brushes for the jewelry industry in Pforzheim, Germany. Weiler Corporation has been in Cresco for close to 60 years, with significant increases in the size of the plant since 1957 to its present size of 250,000 square feet. Weiler also manufactures in Brazil and China.

When asked why the company has supported BWA since 1996, Chairman Karl M. Weiler said, “Basically Weiler has always been very environmentally conscious. It’s just good business to be environmentally conscious and respectful—we all live on this spaceship called Planet Earth. We all need to do our share.”

Weiler Corporation is an Adopt-a-Stream Steward. Stewards’ annual donations of $500 or more support BWA’s outreach and education activities.

In its share, Weiler Corporation recycles all metals, paper, and corrugated cardboard. It is “exceptionally careful” of how septage systems are maintained. The company “harvests sunlight” in some portions of the Cresco facility, with fluorescent lamps that throttle back during the day, using less power. The interior of the plant was re-lamped with fluorescent lamps to save energy, and all exterior fixtures were replaced with energy-saving LED lighting. The company is experimenting now with LED fixtures that can replace fluorescent bulbs, maintaining a consistently bright light over time.

Weiler notes that a 25-acre wetland feeds a consistently bright light over time.

Weiler also manufactures in Brazil and China.

Ann's goals include motivating and involving the BWA general membership: "Each and every member has something to contribute to watershed protection."

The success of the ForEvergreen Nature Preserve building project is another of Ann's priorities. "A physical presence in the community—with the opportunity to have a building where we can provide watershed education to our community and tourists—would be incredible," she said.

Ann is also determined that BWA remain vigilant in its fight for water quality. "We live in a ‘bubble’ here in northeastern Pennsylvania. Water is plentiful, generally clean and we’re lulled into a false sense of security that it’s always going to be that way. But it won’t. Degradation of our waterways and environment is often insidious."

“Stormwater runoff, decreased riparian buffers, elevated fecal coliform levels, rising water temperatures, decreased base flows are just a few of the many challenges we face today in the Brodhead Watershed,” she continued. “If left unchecked, they will change water supply and quality for our children and grandchildren.”

With her personal connection to the Brodhead Watershed, her firsthand knowledge of the dangers of water pollution and her years of leadership experience, Ann will lead the BWA to the waters of continued growth and outreach.
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Weiler notes that a 25-acre wetland feeds to Cranberry Creek. “We're proud to support the BWA in protecting our creeks and streams,” he said.

Remember the celebration!

The annual Membership Celebration, held Oct. 2 at Northampton Community College’s Monroe Campus, was a great success. Thanks to Ken Schurman of VIP Studios, BWA has a selection of photos you can order.

**WATER**

From Page 1

To capture attention where waterfowl are most likely to be fed, 12 signs — four in each municipality — have been placed on the banks of the creeks.

The signs state: “Please don’t feed the ducks. When you feed ducks, more come. Lots of ducks mean lots of duck poop. This area’s fecal contamination is too high, so please do everyone’s water a favor: don’t feed the ducks!”

Duck and geese droppings in the creek have caused levels of fecal coliform to be notably high. Because of this, the state Department of Environmental Protection has deemed the lower region of Brodhead Creek unsafe for recreational use.

**ANN**

From Page 1

conviction to improve the world one step at a time, she works a clinical research nurse at Hughes Cancer Center, East Stroudsburg. She believes that “education and learning is a life-long experience that continues long after you’ve left a formal classroom.”

The seeds of interest in watershed preservation were planted early in her life. While pre-dawn hikes may seem monotonous to some children, they fostered Ann’s love of the natural world. The first time she saw a bald eagle in the wild further inspired her interest in environmental conservation.

“I’ll never forget that moment,” she said.

The beauty of nature led her to environmental volunteerism, but her childhood exposure to the Tocks Island Dam fight of the 1960s, and 1970s left its mark as well. The accomplishments and activism of what began as a small group of citizens working together to protect the waters of the Delaware River left a lasting impression.

Ann found herself drawn into BWA activity when former board members Chris Perry, Geri Daily, and Ellen Davis invited her to become a Streamwatch volunteer. Her involvement grew from there. She admires the group’s diverse backgrounds and experiences, as well as the hard work and dedication of its volunteer members. “We’re a small group, but we pack a punch,” Ann said.

Ann’s goals include motivating and involving the BWA general membership: “Each and every member has something to contribute to watershed protection.”

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With her personal connection to the Brodhead Watershed, her firsthand knowledge of the dangers of water pollution and her years of experience for 35 years. He now spends time in community service. A member of many hiking clubs, Frank leads hikes and does trail maintenance throughout the region.

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**BOB HEIL**

is a native of Monroe County and lived his entire life in the Saylorsburg area. Bob holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Penn State and recently completed his master’s in biology from East Stroudsburg University. When Bob isn’t at his environmental job in New Jersey or following the Nittany Lions, you will find him somewhere outdoors.

**DOUG LEIES**, a Pocono native and Penn State graduate, owns a Christmas tree farm in Swiftwater. Doug wants to work with BWA to inspire good stewardship of this special environment we all share.
Try it! Scan this QR code.

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