



Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2015



Ann Foster has been elected president of the BWA board of directors.

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

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Two BWA projects grab media attention

Two environmental efforts by BWA were publicized on local media recently – rain gardens and the clean water campaign:

Three rain gardens bloom

BWA, in its continuing effort to “green” downtown Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg, has installed rain gardens on Quaker Alley, Stroudsburg, and at East Stroudsburg High School South.

WBRE, WNEP and BRC13 filmed installations and interviewed volunteers installing the gardens. Print media also featured the projects.

Created in partnership with Sarah Street Grill, the Quaker Alley garden will capture runoff from the restaurant’s roof and parking lot, allowing rain to slowly infiltrate the soil. This prevents pollution and erosion by keeping stormwater from racing away to nearby streams.

Two more rain gardens were planted at East Stroudsburg High School South property by students from teacher Pat Bixler’s class, with help from the Natiello family, who are participating as Penn State-trained Master Watershed Stewards.

These demonstration rain garden projects are administered by Brodhead Watershed Association using grant money from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For information, see brodheadwatershed.org.



Sarah Street Grill in Quaker Alley, Stroudsburg, sports a new rain garden.

Campaign: To help clean waterways, don’t feed ducks

News media also publicized BWA’s effort to reduce fecal contamination in the Brodhead Watershed.

BWA has proof of bacteria and pollution in the Brodhead, Pocono and McMichael creeks in Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg and Stroud Township from a study done last summer. Condensing all that data into a campaign for the public, BWA says: “Please don’t feed the ducks.”

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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 six 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're all living 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 doing its share, Weiler Corporation recycles all metals, paper, and corrugated cardboard. It is "exceptionally careful" of how septic 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. 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 the pond on their property, which in turn is the headwaters of Cranberry Creek. "We're proud to support the BWA in protecting our creeks and streams," he said.

– Carol Hillestad

Would you like to participate in the Adopt-a-Stream program? Email info@brodheadwatershed.org for information or go to www.brodheadwatershed.org/form_member.html.

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.

See www.vipstudiosinc.com and click on Galleries to locate your favorites. Digital files are available by contacting the studio at 570-839-2020 or emailing vipstudios@verizon.net.

WATER

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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. The



This sign warns visitors at Brodhead Creek in Stroudsburg not to feed the ducks there.

Borough of East Stroudsburg has installed signs warning, "No swimming. High bacteria levels."



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.

Welcome, new members!

Nancy Tully of East Stroudsburg; Chris Straub of Warren, N.J.; John Caminiti of Plainfield, N.J.; Miriam Bauers of Wayne and Cresco; Patty Pirog of Canadensis; Jen Bradley of Pocono Lake; Emily Long of Scott Township; Kathleen Flynn of East Stroudsburg; Ronald Feiertag of Stroudsburg; Rob Thompson of Cresco; Laura Van Gilder of Cresco; Doug Dailey of Stroudsburg; Laurie Harriton of Shawnee-on-Delaware; John & Rachel Cohen of Stroudsburg; Kris Shreiner; Kent Johnson of Long Pond; Peter Glusiec of East Stroudsburg; Douglas & Sherry Olmstead of Henryville; and Philip Paskowitz of Yaphank, N.Y.



At Fountain Court, a shopping center on Route 611 between Bartsonville and Tannersville, errant trash has become a menace to Cranberry Creek. Wildcat dumpers might be to blame.

What we'd rather not see



ANN

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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."

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.

BWA FACES

Three new board members



FRANK ALLEN of East Stroudsburg, who has a Ph.D. in English, taught at various universities 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.



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.



New website for Pocono hikers

A new website featuring preserves and trails in the Poconos gives hikers a comprehensive resource for finding outdoor adventures.

Get Outdoors Poconos, a grant-funded series by the Brodhead Watershed Association, features monthly hikes and information about public parks and preserves.

Go to www.brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos for event information, trail maps, hiker's hints, photos and feature stories.

A hiker's archive of trail information is available on the site. These sites and maps can be easily accessed on smartphones via QR codes posted at trailheads.



Try it! Scan this QR code. ▲

CALENDAR

AUTUMN WANDER

(Where in the Watershed Walk #19)
1 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15

Appreciate the fall splendor at Paradise-Price Preserve and Targa Falls. Don Miller and Bill Sweeney will lead the way. 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.

WELCOME WINTER WANDER

(Where in the Watershed Walk #20)
1 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13

An easy walk in the winter wonderlands of Brodhead Park and Pinebrook Park, Stroud Township. Leaders: Don Miller and Bill Sweeney. 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.

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.

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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