



Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2016

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Five more for clean water

Five new members were welcomed to the Brodhead Watershed Association board of directors on Sept. 30, during the annual Members & Friends Celebration. They come from assorted areas, vocations, and backgrounds, but all share one goal: to protect the Brodhead watershed's high-quality water, for everyone's benefit.



Annette Atkinson, Jennifer Bradley, Anne Fetherman and Paula Heesch enjoy the Sept. 30 celebration, where they were elected to serve on the Brodhead Watershed Association board.

JOHN PARKER

AGE: 62
TOWN: Hamilton Township
JOB: Long career in petroleum distribution and commercial real estate development
VOLUNTEERISM: BWA



Streamwatcher, Monroe County Industrial Development Authority, Pocono Mountain Industrial Park Authority and Pocono Mountain Industries, Brodhead Creek Regional

Authority, Hamilton Township Zoning Hearing Board, Monroe County Hospital Authority, Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs, Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 839.

FAVORITE BWA EVENT: Native Plant Sale

WHAT PROMPTED HIM TO JOIN BWA: McMichael Creek runs through our property, and I enjoy fly fishing. I want to see the quality of our watershed and the quality of life in our region maintained.

WHAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BWA DO IN FUTURE: Work closely with developers and governmental entities to assure that our region can provide good employment opportunities while maintaining environmental quality.

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE POCONOS: At home along McMichael Creek.

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Pass the salt ...

Sodium chloride, winter roads and water



By Carol Hillestad

In 1938, New Hampshire had an idea: Would spreading salt on winter roads make winter travel safer? The answer was a resounding "yes." Applying sodium chloride — rock salt — to the roads reduces

crashes by 88 percent and injuries by 85 percent, according to the Salt Institute, an industry trade group. So today, nationwide, 10 times as much salt is used on roads as is used in processed foods.

But there is a cost.

When ice and snow melt, as they eventually do, the runoff carries all that sodium chloride along with it, into our streams. Freshwater creatures such as insects, fish, and salamanders struggle or die in salty, chloride-laden water. Chloride levels in streams

are increasing — because it also sinks into groundwater, where it builds up over decades before eventually surfacing in a creek or stream.

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BOARD

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ANNETTE ATKINSON



AGE: On the cusp of "classic" to "vintage," but very far from "antique"
TOWN: East Stroudsburg (Middle Smithfield Township)

JOB: Township supervisor, chairperson, administrative and operations director for Middle Smithfield Township, where she helped to create the township's Community Gardens Park and developed an apiary.

VOLUNTEERISM: On the boards of the Monroe County Women's Commission and Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm, and is secretary of the Monroe County Association of Township Officials. She is a volunteer master gardener, member of St. John's Church, Monroe County Beekeeper's Association, and a Streamwatcher for BWA.

FAVORITE BWA EVENT: Native Plant Sale!
WHAT PROMPTED HER TO JOIN BWA: We live in a high-quality watershed – and I am committed to keeping it that way!

WHAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BWA DO IN FUTURE: Too new for a cogent answer, but I'm impressed with BWA efforts to promote responsible stormwater management – the rain garden program is a great idea! Permeable concrete.

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE POCONOS: Sooooo hard to pick. Resica Falls, Hidden Lake, Mount Minsi.

JEN BRADLEY



AGE: Right in the sweet spot
TOWN: Pocono Lake
JOB: Assistant professor of psychology at Northampton Community College

VOLUNTEERISM: President of Penn State's Monroe County Master Gardeners, PSU Forest Steward

FAVORITE BWA EVENT: I love them all, but there is a special place in my heart for the Native Plant Sale.

WHAT PROMPTED HER TO JOIN BWA: Our water quality is central to our quality of life.

WHAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BWA DO IN FUTURE: Expand the plantings at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve.

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE POCONOS: My home in Arrowhead Lakes.

ANNE FETHERMAN



AGE: 79
TOWN: Cherry Valley (Stroud Township)
JOB: Retired teacher and principal now living on a tree farm and vineyard.

VOLUNTEERISM: Assisted in creation of Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge; first president of Friends of Cherry Valley; BWA Streamwatcher since 2002.

FAVORITE BWA EVENT: Streamwatching
WHAT PROMPTED HER TO JOIN BWA: Being around terrific people who care about preserving and protecting our beautiful home.

WHAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BWA DO IN FUTURE: Keep on keeping on!
FAVORITE PLACE IN THE POCONOS: Cherry Valley, of course!

PAULA HEESCHEN



AGE: 65 (as of Nov. 7)
TOWN: Stroudsburg
JOB: Former Pocono Record employee
VOLUNTEERISM: League of Women Voters, Big

Brothers Big Sisters of Monroe County, Meals on Wheels, and teaches and studies dance at the School of Visual and Performing Arts in Stroudsburg.

FAVORITE BWA EVENT: The annual Members & Friends Celebration, which draws some of the community's most dedicated people under one roof.

WHAT PROMPTED HER TO JOIN BWA: Monroe County's rapid growth while retaining of much of its green landscape speaks to the success of BWA's (and others') efforts.

WHAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BWA DO IN FUTURE: As a parent of three daughters and four grandchildren, I hope to see BWA continue its vital Streamwatch program, as well as educating the community and holding great walking, hiking and exploration events for years to come.

FAVORITE PLACE IN THE POCONOS: For me, there's no such thing as a "favorite" place in the Poconos, which has so much to offer. But the Delaware Water Gap has served as a backdrop for many a memorable Sunday hike. High Acres Park holds a special place in my heart as well, as the site of a number of Pocono Forestry Association picnics. BWA's ForEvergreen Nature Preserve now provides a very similar opportunity to the nature-loving community here.

SALT

From Page 1

New Hampshire was first to use road salt — and by 2008 had 19 bodies of water that were impaired by high levels of chloride. In 2010, the total was 40. It's become a national issue: A 2014 study published by U.S. Geological Survey scientists found substantial chloride concentration increases in 84 percent of the urban streams it analyzed from the 1960s through 2011.

Of all sites in Monroe County, the highest level of chloride and measure of conductivity (a measure of salt in water) was just below Route 380 on Swiftwater Creek, above Kalahari Resort, according to the county Water Quality study. Below the resort was better, but that could change as salt is used on the parking lots surrounding the resort. Road salt also kills roadside vegetation, leading to erosion — and more sediment being washed into streams.

What can be done? There's the problem. Even though the impacts are clear, the benefits of safer roads are also clear. Beet juice and grit are alternatives, but there's nothing that is completely inert. Some states, such as Massachusetts, list highways that have "reduced salt areas" where salt treatment is limited because the highway crosses drinking water supplies.

You can help in a small way by not using chloride-containing treatments on walkways and driveways. Let your municipal officials know about the problem, and ask them to consider alternatives. Awareness is the first step on the path to a solution.

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Smith

This guy looks familiar

"I'm back in the saddle again," sang Gene Autry.

You are lucky. I not going to sing, but I am back as president of BWA.

Ann Foster, president in 2015-16, is still very much a vital part of BWA by heading up the Communications Committee, but she has many irons in the fire and needs to step back a little in her leadership role. Our leadership is fluid. I stepped back into the job (I was president 2013-15), and it's business as usual.

BWA continues to grow in its importance locally. Explore the website, brodheadwatershed.org. BWA leads in areas of education and citizen activism (Green Infrastructure and Streamwatch programs). Our outreach programs continue to train new Streamwatchers for our watershed and, with funding from the William Penn Foundation, new Streamwatch organizers in Pike and Sullivan, N.Y., counties. The successful Get Outdoors Poconos program has led 16 hikes to date, and more are scheduled. Multiple rain gardens have been constructed to demonstrate how polluted runoff can be cleaned up, with more gardens in planning stages.

Grants have been obtained from several sources to fund BWA projects, including our continued efforts to monitor water quality. As always, a high percentage of your donations and your membership dues are spent on the work we do, not on administrative costs. We are very busy – and very successful – thanks to the continued efforts of volunteers from the membership and the Board of Directors.

A capital campaign is in the works to raise funds to build new headquarters at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve. If you have experience in fundraising for other projects and organizations, please contact us and volunteer. You can make the difference.



Craig Todd speaks after being honored at the annual BWA Members & Friends Celebration, held Sept. 30.

Successful celebration

Almost 200 people attended BWA's 27th annual Members & Friends Celebration held Sept. 30 at Northampton Community College – a record-setting success.

After enjoying gourmet food and drinks, bidding on items in the largest ever silent auction and socializing with fellow environmental enthusiasts, guests got down to business: honoring Craig Todd for his exceptional commitment to maintaining nature for future generations.

Also honored were three staff members of Monroe County Planning Commission – Christine Meinhart-Fritz, director; Evan Makuvek, environmental planner; and George Basila, GIS analyst – as valuable partners in BWA's Green Infrastructure Project, promoting use of nature-based solutions (such as rain gardens) to protect water quality.

We're always making more Streamwatchers

Jackie Speicher, a longtime Streamwatcher with BWA, has been conducting a series of seminars to train new Streamwatchers in Pennsylvania and nearby areas of New York.

On Sept. 9, Speicher held a seminar for volunteers interested in testing for water quality in Bushkill Creek, Middle Smithfield Township. Participants learned Streamwatch protocols, how to use test kits, and chose



Darryl Speicher assists his wife, Jackie, with Streamwatch training on Sept. 9 in the Middle Smithfield Township municipal building. (Contributed photo)

test sites in the area.

More than 60 Streamwatchers have been trained in the program funded by a grant from the William Penn Foundation.

If you're interested in joining the Streamwatch program, see brodheadwatershed.org/streamwatchers.html or call 570-839-1120.

Welcome, new members!

David & Pam Brown of Henryville; Patricia Niles of Henryville; Beverly Otten of Pocono Summit; Meg Dilger of Cresco; Skip Davis of Swiftwater; Jamie Tehonica of Norristown; Sharon Petry of Stroudsburg; Trudie Lear of Stroudsburg; Forrest Cavalier of Saylorsburg; Gary & Mary Beehler of Tobyhanna; Joseph Barraco of Stroudsburg; Marilyn Rousseau of Marshalls Creek; Susan Detrick of East Stroudsburg; Ken & April Gaugler of Pennsburg; Sharon Laverdure of East Stroudsburg; Debra Schuler of Stroudsburg; Lynne Harriton of New York, N.Y.; Stephen Davies of New York, N.Y.; and Robert Barrett of Rumson, N.J.

Thank you, rain garden guardians!

As you drive around Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg, keep an eye out for BWA's rain gardens – there are quite a few more than there were one short summer ago.

As part of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant-funded Green Infrastructure Project (nature-based solutions to pollution), BWA volunteers have been planting these bowl-shaped gardens in downtown areas to help capture and filter runoff before it can reach nearby creeks.

Once the gardens are installed, the “rain garden guardians” take over, ensuring plants are watered, weeded and replaced as needed. These wonderful volunteers have agreed to adopt a BWA rain garden:

- Carol Raemsch and her daughter, Mattie: Retro-Fitness, Stroud Township
- Julie Duick: Ann Street, Stroudsburg
- Sue Detrick: Sarah Street Grill, Stroudsburg
- Nancy Daniels: East Stroudsburg firehouse, Lackawanna Avenue
- Marilyn Rousseau: East Stroudsburg's historic Dansbury Depot
- Jane Snukis: East Stroudsburg High School South
- Jeff Feick: Glen Brook Golf Course, Stroud Township



The most recently created garden is at the historic Dansbury Depot in East Stroudsburg. Nancy Daniels, Jane Snukis and Dave from Ross & Ross Nursery.

CALENDAR

PARADISE-PRICE PRESERVE
(a free Get Outdoors Poconos hike)
1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20

See part of the 777 acres of Paradise-Price Preserve, which straddles the divide between the Brodhead and Paradise watersheds, protecting the water quality of both. This will be an easy, 1-mile walk in woods and suitable for families and seniors.

To reserve your spot, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727; email info@brodheadwatershed.org. For information about this and other hikes in the free Get Outdoors Poconos series, go to brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

POHOQUALINE FISHING ASSOCIATION ON McMICHAEL CREEK
(a free Get Outdoors Poconos hike)
1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18
Keep an eye on brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos for details as the event draws closer.

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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