

Streamwatch

The Brodhead Watershed Association is a data-based organization. And we get our data the old-fashioned way: We work for it.

"The stream watch program involves approximately 75 volunteers who go out on a monthly basis to 82 designated sites and record air and water temperature, weather conditions, stream level, odor, clarity and test pH value plus collect water samples for nitrate and phosphate testing, which are done off site," Streamwatch coordinator Ellen Davis said.

"Thru the dedication of many volunteers over more than 20 years, the resulting data indicates the streams of the Brodhead Watershed are of good quality. Very few of the sites have problems and considering the rapid development of Monroe County in the '80s & '90s and before this is exceptional. Habitat protection along the streams, thanks to many private fishing clubs and private land owners, has contributed to the healthy streams which make up the Brodhead Watershed."

The result? Baseline data -- our "normal" now. Spikes in pollution can be more easily detected and sources more easily pinpointed.

"Dr. Waters" Honored
At the Twenty-Third Annual Environmental Partnership Awards Dinner, held on Thursday, October 25, 2012 at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Wilkes-Barre, PA., the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority Education Outreach Program was honored for its Source Water Protection Program (SWPP), out of which they developed the "Dr. Waters" Program. Michael Reisenwitz (aka Dr. Waters) was present to accept the award on behalf of the Authority.



BWA Officer Dr. Pat Kennedy and Jeremy Young, Director of the Tannersville office of Microbac, 11/6/12. Microbac joins the growing number of corporations supporting BWA's Adopt A Stream water testing program.

The Source Water Protection Education Outreach Program educates K-12 students about water pollution, rainwater runoff, conservation and watershed basics in addition to educating the general public, boy and girl scout groups, civic organizations, church groups, environmental organizations, watershed municipal leaders and zoning officials about the watershed.



Brittany Ott interned with us from August 2012 - December 2012

This newsletter was one of many things she has done.

Thank you for your help, Brittany!

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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Save the Dates!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 16:
33rd Pocono Mountain
Christmas Bird Count

For more information contact Brian Hardiman at bhmccd@ptd.net or 570-629-3061

January 27:
West End Regional Park,
Winter Trees Hike

For more information contact Bernie Kozen at 570-992-9733
Pre-registration is requested.

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Want to get involved?

Contact the BWA office at brodheadwatershed@gmail.com or 570-839-1120.

Volunteers are always welcome!

2012 Annual Membership Celebration



Dr. Patricia Kennedy honored for her position as President from 2009-2011.

Tahlasia Williams, Pamela Jacques with Dr. Beatriz Villar from Northampton Community College, accepting BWA Stewardship Research Grant.

The Brodhead Watershed Association celebrated 23 years of protecting the watershed and its highest membership ever at its annual dinner recently at Skytop Lodge. The organization also had an unprecedented 127 attendees at the dinner. The organization is growing, with 73 new memberships this year, bringing the total to 413.

Eddie Stevens, one of the group's founding members, said the meeting finished up an "exciting" year.

"Our move to donated office space at Michael Flood's Paradise Corporate Center made the office more accessible to members and friends. Our first kayak trip on McMichael Creek gave people an opportunity to see our hidden, beautiful streams, and convinced us we need to do more programs to get people on and in the water," Stevens said.

"Energetic new board members, new partnerships, and lots of new 'Streamwatch' volunteers are already helping achieve that goal. Theresa Merli's leadership as executive director, with the help of many involved board members, has grown membership, outreach and

public programs. Look for more in our second year under Theresa's guidance."

Keynote speaker at the annual meeting was Emmy award-winning science and environmental reporter and book author Ben Gelber, who has been forecasting weather for NBC4 in Columbus, Ohio, since 1980. His experiences growing up among Brodhead watershed residents who each had stories about the flood of 1955, which killed 78 local people, fueled his passion to understand the weather.

Gelber addressed climate change in his remarks, noting that climatologists, relying on a long view and data spanning tens of thousands of years, are more likely than meteorologists to accept the significance of human activity in the current climate cycle.

"Meteorologists in the United States are working off data that only goes back to 1848," he noted, "and are, by profession, constantly looking at short-term weather causes." Gelber noted that the most indisputable effect of the weather right now is huge rainfall events; storms putting eight to 14 inches of rain on a location are simply unprecedented in the weather records, he said.



New Board Members Elected for a Three Year Term at Annual Membership Celebration

Alfred (Al) Johnson: Al is the Owner-Manager of the Pocono Cheesecake Factory in Swiftwater. Al is a hiker and biker. He and his wife Carole have lived in Paradise Township for 37 years and are long-time supporters of the BWA.

Don Miller: Don is a long-time BWA member whose past involvement includes service as a board member, committee chair, vice president and then president. He is well known in the conservation community for his many stewardship activities for the Pocono Heritage Land Trust and for his work on the Open Space Advisory Board. Don and his wife Gayle live in Paradise Township.

Robin Petras: Robin works as a landscape designer and enjoys camping, hiking and skiing as well as organic gardening and propagating and planting native trees, shrubs and perennials. Robin has been an active with BWA with annual plant sales as well as projects to remove invasive plants and replacing them with natives. She lives in Mountainhome with her husband, Ryan, daughter, Lily, two dogs and a cat.

Jeremy Young: Jeremy is the laboratory director of the Pocono Division of Microbac Labs and responsible for business development. He was founder and operator of Pocono Environmental Labs. He is an avid fisherman who spends many hours a year on the water. Currently a resident of Tobyhanna Township, Jeremy has lived in Monroe County for the past 20 years.

Brodhead Watershed Association's Inaugural Kayak Sojourn on the lower McMichael Creek

The Brodhead Watershed Association hosted its inaugural kayak sojourn on the lower McMichael Creek on September 22.

As a result of summer weather conditions, downed trees and lowered water depths, this pilot effort was limited to 20 sojourners and the trip was shortened from the original 8 miles planned (From the soccer fields in Hamilton Township, winding through Stroud Township and ending ending on the ESSA bank lawn in Stroudsburg to a 3 mile stretch from Hickory Valley Park in Stroud Township to Kovarick Park.

The event for Sojourners began with a continental breakfast, safety session, and presentation of maps and photos showing the sections of the McMichael explored by the planners this summer in preparation for the Sojourn. Participants were then transported to the upstream launch site to begin paddling by approximately 10 a.m. with interpretive sessions given by local naturalists on creek ecology along the way.

A half-way point lunch break with demonstrations of fly-fish casting, lure creation, water testing procedures, photos by Jeff Feick of the flora and fauna of the Glenbrook Golf Course, and stream bank ecology by Don Miller.

Sojourners then paddled through the Glenbrook Golf Course, taking out at Kovarick Park.

Those who wish to sign up for next year's sojourn can contact BWA at brodheadwatershed@gmail.com.



Sojourn ...
A guided paddling adventure, with time to pause and consider the beauty and wildness of our native waters.

In partnership with:

- Pocono Heritage Land Trust
- Trout Unlimited - Brodhead Chapter
- Stroud Township
- Funded in part by PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers

BWA needs your help!

We would like to fill a volunteer position.

BWA has members that want to help out at our activities but we need someone to make sure they get the opportunity to do so.

BWA also needs someone to reach out to new members and let them know we recognize their support and thank them for it.

If you are interested in welcoming new members and coordinating who would like to help at BWA activities, contact the BWA at 570-839-1120 for more information.

Help BWA get others involved.

President's Corner

Summer is gone and autumn has fallen on us hard with Hurricane Sandy. Although most of us have moved indoors, BWA activities have not slowed down as evident by the record-breaking attendance and highly successful silent auction at our annual membership celebration on Oct 5.

Membership and volunteerism continues to grow, with 73 new members since the beginning of the year and 30-plus new Streamwatchers from a training session on Sept 27, led by Ellen Davis.

Don Baylor and his Issues committee are working on a petition to upgrade the Cranberry Creek from High Quality to Exceptional Value and BWA volunteers were trained by Trout Unlimited to do baseline water quality testing ahead of Marcellus Shale development. BWA representatives met with representatives of the proposed Kalahari water park resort to begin a cooperative effort to assure their plans respect the integrity of the watershed.

We are looking to our members to contact the office at 570-839-1120 to volunteer to help. Board members and their committees are working hard to grow the BWA and more hands are always needed. From fund raising and long range planning, to helping with a full event schedule for 2013 we need YOU!

This will be an exciting year to be a part of the growing community of people who care about preserving our unique pristine waters. Please take the time to educate your friends and neighbors about the importance of our efforts, and ask them to JOIN!

I look forward to seeing you at our next event and hope you will enjoy what is in store for the coming year. Don't forget to VOLUNTEER!

Rob Sedwin



The Brodhead Watershed Association honored Bob Stevens of Bartonsville for 21 years of protecting Pocono water at the association's recent annual dinner meeting at Skytop Lodge.

Stevens is stepping down as a volunteer Streamwatcher and as team leader for the Pocono streamwatcher team.



Tom Galucci, and his lawn care firm, Absolutely Lawns, are BWA's newest Adopt-A-Stream Site Sponsor.

Tom is a long time member of BWA, and an early volunteer Streamwatcher. As his family and business grew, Tom decided to make his contribution to BWA a monetary one. Absolutely Lawns specializes in the health of your trees, shrubs, and lawns, using low impact pesticide practices and has organic programs available.

We are up to 413 members!
Welcome to our new members in 2012

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rob & Mary Baxter | Rebecca Kuse |
| Barbara Lewis | Jaime MacDonough |
| Kimberlee McKay | James & Betty Miller |
| Nicole Prussman | Mr & Mrs Ronald Miller |
| John Donato | Deborah & Michael |
| Cliff & Robin Lively | Reisenwitz |
| Microbac | Fred Ruben |
| Jeremy Young | Deanne Slusher |
| Geraldine & Neal Collenburg | Sally Thompson |
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| Gore Family | Merlyn/Betsey Clarke |
| Bill Marsh | Anne Tiracchia |
| Willie Cobb | Kathy/Ed Watto |
| A Victor Keen | Julie Weber |
| Absolutely Lawns, INC | George White |
| Chris & Amy Selena | Sharon Petry |
| Thomas J. Williams | Jodi/Steve McGinnis |
| Jenn Allen | Tracy A. Whitford |
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| Frances L Ferrari | Ann Ligi |
| Mary Franko | Bill & Sheree Watson |
| Sharon Gigliotti | Scott Collenburg |
| Christina Headen | Martha Toledo |
| Christine Hilmer | Robert Chabala & |
| Maria Horn | Conner Birch |
| Margie Kiernan | Tony Harlacher |

THANKS TO THE DONORS TO THE 2012 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING'S SILENT AUCTION

Please patronize these BWA supporters

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| Buck Hill- Skytop Music Festival | Louise Smith |
| Callie's Candy | Mad Dog Grooming |
| Camelback Mountain Resort | Moe's Southwestern Grill |
| Canadensis Country Store and Deli | Monroe County Environment |
| Canadensis Veterinary Clinic | Ed Center |
| Canfield's Agway | Mountainhome Bowling Center |
| Carazza's Restaurant | Neal Sedwin |
| Casino Theater | Paradise/Big Brown fish hatcheries |
| Chamberlain Canoes | Pocono Cheesecake Factory |
| Cole's Pizza | Pocono Farmstand |
| Cook's Corner Restaurant | Rob Sedwin |
| Dale's Café | Ross and Ross Nursery |
| Darryl and Jackie Speicher | Sarah Street Grill |
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| Don Miller | Ski Shawnee |
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