



Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2018

Green oasis grows in Stroudsburg

By CAROL HILLESTAD

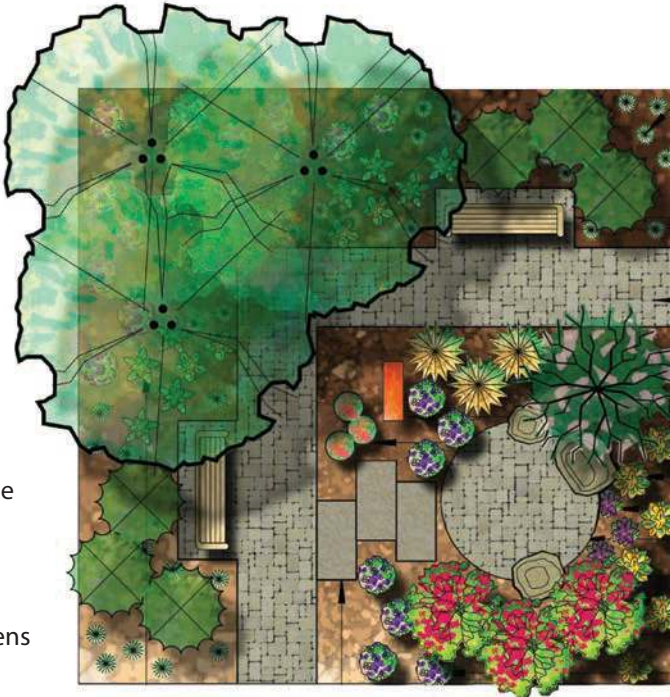
Maybe you've seen the long-empty lot at the corner of Sixth Street and Quaker Alley, right in the heart of Stroudsburg.

It may not look like much right now. But in late spring, a pocket park will take root here, according to Robin Anglemyer, landscape designer for Strauser Nature's Helpers.

Robin designed the demonstration gardens for the 35- by 35-foot corner park. The space also functions as "green infrastructure" — permeable paving stones allow rainwater to infiltrate the soil naturally, native plants are adapted to our climate, and rain gardens along the curving path also clean and purify rainwater.

Just as important, according to Robin, is that green spaces in towns bring people together.

"This is a place to have lunch from one of our great local eateries. Share a coffee with a



This pocket park planned for the corner of Sixth Street and Quaker Alley, Stroudsburg, was designed by Robin Anglemyer of Strauser Nature's Helpers.

■ For information about and to donate, see brodheadwatershed.org/StroudsburgPark.html

friend. Get outdoors, right down the block, with your children. Or just sit quietly in the middle of a busy day and breathe. That's what I see blooming here," she said.

Educational signs and benches will welcome employees of nearby businesses, residents and visitors. Boulders encourage children's

creative play — one day seeing the rocks as ships under sail, another the backs of dinosaurs, another mountains to climb.

Robin gives credit to the Monroe County commissioners and Stroudsburg

Create a pocket park in your own backyard

Pocono backyards and gardens are prime space for outdoor parties, playing games with the kids, and enjoying our most beautiful part of the world. Our backyards are prime wildlife areas, too — everything from black bears, white-tailed deer, and wild turkeys to field mice, bees, salamanders, and frogs.

With the help of tools at www.habitat.network, people all over the country are mapping their spaces, identifying important features from bird baths to brush piles, and documenting the wild creatures that use them. Users get lots of tips on improving their site for wildlife, and researchers get important information on how private land affects wildlife.

More than 25,000 sites, totaling half a million acres, have already been mapped. The mapping tool is fun to use. And it might be a real eye-opener about just how valuable your place is in the natural world.

SAVE THE DATE

Native Plant Sale

BWA's popular annual sale of native plants will be held Friday and Saturday, June 1-2, at Pocono Township Volunteer Fire Co.'s carnival building, Route 611, Tannersville. Shop for rare, beautiful and environmentally responsible plants that you won't find at big-box stores. Friday's sale is for members only. Watch for details at brodheadwatershed.org as the date draws closer.



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Borough for helping to make this happen. "Without the lease of the land, this peaceful place wouldn't have happened," she said.

A \$3,000 green infrastructure grant from Brodhead Watershed Association, which paid for pervious pavers, jumpstarted the project.

Weather permitting, excavation will start in May. Setting the pavers and planting will happen in June.

In-kind donations and most of the needed funds have been raised from supporters such as Strauser Nature's Helpers, the Sherman Theatre, Vigon Industries, Monroe County Realtors Association, Sarah Street Grille, Greater Pike Community Foundation, downtown merchants and, of course, Brodhead Watershed Association.

The rest of the lot will be left as is for the time being.

"But if people enjoy and use the space, I would love to see it expand," Robin said. "Can't you just see it as a great place for outdoor art and music?"

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Strauser Nature's Helpers

"We've been an Adopt-A-Stream Sponsor for a few years now," says Zech Strauser, founder and CEO of Strauser Nature's Helpers (www.strausernature.com). "It just aligns perfectly with our philosophy in everything we do."

The company designs, installs, and maintains landscapes for homeowners and commercial properties. The company's philosophy includes a commitment to preferring native plants and layering levels of plant material — no acres of grass and swaths of exposed mulch in a Strauser design. Native plants can thrive with natural amounts of rainfall.



Zech Strauser

Water gardens help contain and filter runoff from roofs and parking lots.

Strauser has also sponsored BWA's Native Plant Sale for the past three years.

"By supporting BWA, we're practicing what we preach," Zech said. "We are all about respecting the environment, and we're grateful to BWA for their work in protecting water quality. Pure water is in everybody's best interest."

■ Would you like to be an Adopt-a-Stream sponsor? See brodheadwatershed.org/AdoptAStream.html

COMING UP

The Plan for Clean Water

We're almost there! The long-awaited Plan for Clean Water – a planning tool for Monroe County decision-makers to guide choices on land protection for clean water – is being written as you read this. With a grant from the Open Space institute, BWA built a collaboration of many partners for input in this project. Report coming soon: Watch BWA's Streamlines and monthly E-news for updates!

■ For information, see brodheadwatershed.org/PlanforCleanWater.html.



FEASIBILITY STUDY UNDER WAY

Plans afoot to build new hiking trail



A new hiking trail may come to the Brodhead watershed, if all goes according to plan.

BWA has secured a grant from the William Penn Foundation to determine the feasibility of a trail running from ForEvergreen Nature Preserve (on Cherry Lane Road in Stroud Township, future home of BWA and Pocono Heritage Land Trust) north toward the Cresco train station.

The study, to be completed

in 2018, will explore options for a trail along the Paradise/Brodhead Creek corridor. This extension would link to the Stroud Regional trail system, which extends to Pinebrook Park and is planned to reach ForEvergreen. With the extensions in place, hikers would have about 15 miles of greenway from Cresco to East Stroudsburg.

"Connecting people with the outstanding natural features

of the Pocono Mountains, such as our open spaces and clean water, is essential to establishing a conservation ethic and appreciation for nature and a healthy lifestyle," said BWA Executive Director Bob Heil. "This study corridor is the heart and soul of the Brodhead watershed, and connecting people with these lands is a natural extension of our mission to educate people on the importance of clean water."

Gary Bloss of Hamilton Township, who has more than 30 years of experience in community planning and landscape architecture, will conduct the feasibility analysis.

The planning team – including Monroe County Planning Commission and PHLT – wants to hear your thoughts about the proposed trail. Email info@brodheadwatershed.org. A webpage will soon launch.

So ready to spring into busy seasons



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Bob Heif

With the long, snowy winter is behind us (we hope), let's forget Punxsutawney Phil's forecast and focus on all the great things on the horizon:

First day of trout fishing is April 14.

Monroe County's Earth Day is on April 21, to include e-cycling, tire recycling, a give-and-take swap meet, and information booths galore.

We're planning a rain garden upkeep workshop for May 19 at Dansbury Depot, East Stroudsburg – details to come! BWA's Native Plant Sale will be held June 1-2.

And don't forget the Get Outdoors Poconos hikes and informational sessions throughout the seasons.

There are so many activities to explore, to appreciate this Earth that has been buried in snow and ice for too long, that I am hoping everyone can get outdoors and take time to appreciate our area's natural wonders.

Construction happening at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center



In 2017, an anonymous donor challenged BWA and Pocono Heritage Land Trust to raise \$50,000 to obtain a matching donation – and BWA and PHLT met that challenge!

With this \$100,000 applied toward the ultimate cost of \$750,000, construction has begun on Brodhead Creek Heritage Center at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve, 1539 Cherry

Lane Road, Stroud Township. Completion of construction is slated for September.

The center will provide space at the preserve for offices, outdoor events, public gatherings, nature displays and museum exhibits.

■ For information or to donate, visit brodheadcreekheritage.org or call BWA at 570-839-1120 or PHLT at 570-424-1514.

Welcome, new members!

Frank & Sonia Biank of East Stroudsburg; Randy Boone of Kunkletown; Matt Connell of Brodheadsville; Royce & Debra Fetherman of Stroudsburg; Alfred Grassa of Saylorsburg; Yvonne LeBlanc of Canadensis; Thomas & Mary Kaye Lesisko of Jim Thorpe; David Lewis of Washington, D.C.; Joan Loveless Blobner of Saylorsburg; Charlie Martinelli of Reeders; Wanda, Cris & Nelson Matos of Stroudsburg; Mountain View Vineyard of Neola; Weston Strubert of Bartonsville; Nick & Janet Ullo of East Stroudsburg; Stephan & Yissette Van de Loecht of East Stroudsburg



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@brodhead-watershed.org.

CALENDAR

MONROE COUNTY EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 21

A countywide Earth Day celebration with ongoing live music, speakers, exhibitors, workshops, give-and-take, tire amnesty, e-cycling, children's activities, food, and more! At Northampton Community College's Tannersville campus. See mcearthday.org for information.

GRAVEL FAMILY PRESERVE HIKE

(a free Get Outdoors Poconos event)
10 a.m. Sunday, April 22

This Barrett Township preserve offers an easy spring walk to the marsh where the waters of the Middle Branch of Brodhead Creek begin. Families welcome! To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727. Email info@brodheadwatershed.org or see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS WALK-AND-TALK

(a free Get Outdoors Poconos event)
9 a.m. Saturday, May 5

Participants will hear from experts on this beautiful bird and efforts to restore its dwindling habitat, then take a short walk to see a habitat restoration site. Starts at Barrett Paradise Friendly Library. To register, call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727. Email info@brodheadwatershed.org or see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos.

SAVE THE DATE

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

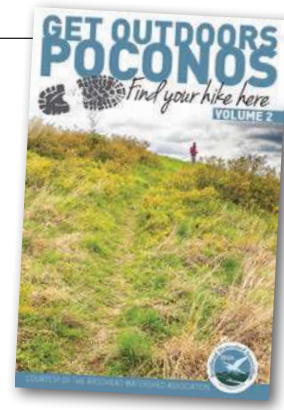
Saturday, May 12

Learn how to make your voice heard on issues that matter to you. Organized by Trout Unlimited and sponsored by Friends of Cherry Valley and BWA, his workshop is tentatively planned for 9 a.m. at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 2138 Croasdale Lane, Stroudsburg. Stay tuned for details!

RAIN GARDEN UPKEEP WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 19

At Dansbury Depot, East Stroudsburg. Details to come!



NEW HIKE BOOKLET COMING SOON

The second volume of BWA's popular hiking booklet will soon be published. The booklet includes photos, maps and trail information from the 2017 Get Outdoors Poconos hiking series.

Look for it in the Friday, April 13, edition of the Pocono Record; at BWA's booth at the April 21 Earth Day celebration; or in mid-April at the BWA office at 425 Carlton Road, Mount Pocono.

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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