



## Spring 2012

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**Please post the  
Plant Sale flyer,  
enclosed,  
in your  
community or  
workplace.**



## Forest Hills Run protected by BWA action

For more than 20 years, Forest Hills Run has been hurting. Once a delightful small trout stream, Forest Hills Run became the poster child for what happens when you ask a small stream to do too much. Discharge from the Mount Pocono sewage treatment plant caused serious, on-going pollution of the stream. Finally, in 2002, the stream was added to the state's "Impaired Streams list", meaning official recognition was given to the impacts from the Borough.

Just getting on the list did not trigger any action from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) however. It took a lawsuit by BWA and PennFuture, filed in December 2010, to get serious discussions under way. The grounds for the suit were violations of the temperature limits set in the discharge permit, but all parties recognized that just installing a chiller to cool the discharge was not likely to solve the impairment of the stream. Tests showed that an overload of nutrients was part of the problem.

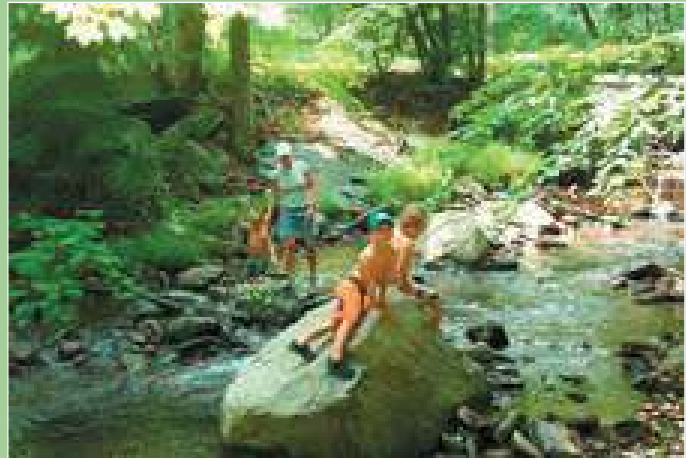
Immediately after filing the suit, BWA and PennFuture began meeting with Mt. Pocono Municipal Authority (MPMA), owners of the plant. From the start, MPMA representatives indicated their desire to get the discharge out of the stream and solve the problem for good. And that is what the agreement will do.

The plan is for MPMA to purchase an adjoining property and install equipment to spray treated wastewater on the land so that plants and soil can filter out the excess nutrients. The spray fields will be installed in phases and MPMA will have the stream studied twice a year. When the studies show that the stream is restored, further phas-

es of the project will not be required.

In winter months, when wastewater cannot be sprayed on the land, the plant will discharge to the stream.

The agreement limits the total dis-



Forest Hills Run will, someday, again be safe for human recreation use because of the Brodhead Watershed Association lawsuit

charge to 400,000 gallons per day until studies show the stream has recovered. Then the discharge can increase to 500,000 gallons per day. Both these limits allow for growth in the borough, as the current discharge is approximately 250,000 gpd.

It will take several years before the first spray field is installed. Those of us who have waited more than 20 years for that day will be patient, as long as progress continues.

### Public Access Guaranteed

An extra bonus for the public will be access to the newly restored stream. This agreement allows growth in Mount Pocono, while improving water quality and creating new recreational opportunities for the public -- a win for everyone."



John Leiser

## Carnegie teacher of the year: BWA board member John Leiser

BWA board member Dr. John Leiser was named the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Pennsylvania Professor of the Year.

He is associate professor of biology at Northampton Community College.

The honor comes from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. It celebrates outstanding instructors across the country.

Dr. Leiser studies wildlife biology, behavioral ecology, and fish biology. He has involved students at the Monroe Campus in research and service learning projects involving watersheds, bird populations, invasive plant species, and community-supported agriculture.

Leiser, of Henryville, graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies, with concentrations in chemistry and German. He went on to earn a doctorate in biology from Lehigh University.

He began teaching at Northampton as an adjunct professor on the main campus in 2002 and in 2004 moved into a tenure track position as an assistant professor at the Monroe Campus.

## Local rule? Legislature strips regulatory power on gas, oil from communities

Municipalities have lost much of their power to limit oil and gas drilling in the new Oil and Gas Act, PennFutures staff attorney Mark Szybist told a packed room of Monroe County lawyers, municipal officials and environmental activists.

Szybist spoke before the Monroe County Bar Association, at the invitation of the Brodhead Watershed Association, days after Pennsylvania's elected officials voted in the new law, which accommodates gas drilling interests pursuing Marcellus Shale gas.

The new law, Szybist said, "is a game changer in respect to what municipalities can do."

Ambiguities in the older Oil and Gas Act are eliminated to make it clear the state preempts municipalities in virtually every aspect of oil and gas operations, including where it can happen, how far away from existing buildings and streams it can be, and similar zoning-type issues. Municipalities can't even regulate hours of operation, as they can for other industries and construction jobs. Nor can they restrict or regulate seismic testing, well siting, restoration of well sites, or anything to do with pipelines, gas compression stations or gas processing plants.

All those duties are now going to be handled by the state Department of Environmental Protection. The state Public Utilities Commis-

sion, meanwhile, has been designated a quasi-judicial agency and will handle complaints from gas drillers about municipal laws. If the PUC finds an ordinance contrary to the act that inhibits gas development, the municipality will have to give up its gas impact fees.

Municipalities will also have to have zoning that allows oil and gas drilling.

State Rep. Mario Scavello (R-176) voted for the new law. At the meeting he said he believes the laws expansion of setbacks from streams and other features makes it an improvement. Szybist pointed out that while the setbacks are greater, the law makes provision for DEP to liberally grant variances to those setbacks.

State Rep. Rosemary Brown (R-189) and State Rep. Michael Pieper (R-139) also voted for the new law. State Rep. Mike Carroll (D-118) voted against it.

Six state senators have a piece of one or more Pocono watersheds. Lisa Baker (R-20), John P. Blake (D-22) Lisa M. Boscola (D-18) and John T. Yudi-chak (D-14) voted against it. Patrick M. Browne (R-16) and David G. Argall (R-29) voted for it.

Details of the effects of the new law are available at [www.pennfuture.org](http://www.pennfuture.org).

## BWA hits the road this spring

We'll have a booth, a table or some type of BWA presence at the following events over the next few months:

- April 14** Litter cleanup at Yankee Run
- April 15** Sustainable PA Environmental Film Festival, Dutot Museum
- April 24** ESU Earth Day
- April 29** Barrett Township Earth Day, High Acres Park
- May 11/12** Plant Sale, NCC Monroe
- June 6** Cherry Valley Day, Josie Porter Farm
- June 9** 1st Annual McMichael Creek Sojourn
- August 12** River Ramble, Stroud Regional Parks

All members are welcome to help out with staffing our presence for recruitment, education and spreading enthusiasm for BWA far and wide. Contact Theresa for more details: [brodheadwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:brodheadwatershed@gmail.com)

## Theresa Merli named executive director of expanding BWA

The Brodhead Watershed Association, as part of its commitment to expand its range of programs and educational activities, has hired a former president as executive director. Theresa Merli of Swiftwater has served on the board of directors of the BWA for 10 years, including stints as secretary, office administrator and president. She is a former Monroe County Commissioner (2008-2011) and served as a Paradise Township Supervisor (1998-2002) and as township auditor there (2003-2009). She is a member of the League of Women Voters and served as secretary for three years.

For many years, Merli was a small business owner with her husband, Chris Merli. Together, they owned and operated a successful construction company in Belmar, N.J., and in 1984 they purchased and operated The Antlers Lodge and Cottages in Swiftwater. After selling their business, Merli pursued a career in the manufacturing industry, working for Weiler Corp. in Cresco for nearly 10 years and then Econ Plastics (of Philadelphia) at a satellite office in Pocono Lake for nearly 7 years.

"I see this is the opportunity of a lifetime. I cannot adequately express how psyched I am to be in a position to fully devote my time and efforts to supporting the work of the Brodhead Watershed Association," Merli said. "I intend to match the commitment and enthusiasm of the members to their mission: to assure that the existing community asset of the high quality water resources of the Brodhead watershed will remain healthy for future generations. I plan to do this through stepped up community outreach, encouraging the participation of ALL residents and visitors in the protection of an asset we all treasure: clean, plentiful water resources."

"With our rapidly expanding agenda of community outreach, education and involvement in actions that protect the sustainability of our waterways, we felt that it was time to take this step, which will help the organization grow and become more effective in the community," President Rob Sedwin said. "We are serious about carrying out our mission of protecting the water resources of the Brodhead watershed and connecting residents and visitors with the pristine waters of the area. Theresa has been an asset to the community on so many levels - we are proud and excited that she has accepted this leadership position," Sedwin said.

"I am very excited about the possibilities for the organization under Theresa's leadership. We have a very committed board of directors and, with Theresa's help, can do so much more to protect our streams and help the region grow in a sustainable way," said Edie Stevens, BWA vice president.



Theresa Merli

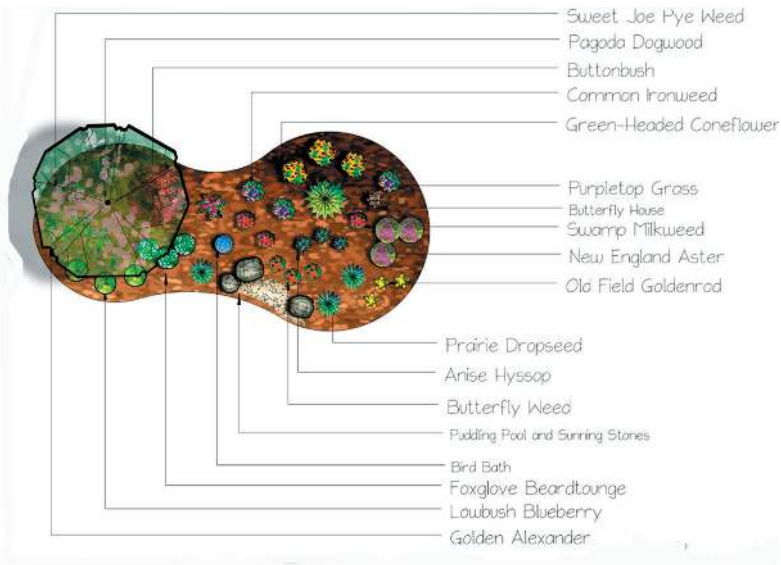
"BWA has grown from a very effective volunteer organization with a talented and activist board of directors to an organization that recognizes the need for effective staff in order to help carry its mission forward to the next level," Vice President Gary Bloss added. "Theresa Merli's appointment as executive director meets this challenge completely and fortuitously. The watershed community can expect more great things to be accomplished by BWA in the years to come."

## Focusing the vision

A one-day board refocusing session, with a facilitator from the Institute of Conservation Leadership, will be held April 22. The goal is to increase BWA's conservation lead-

ship effectiveness. Goals: Setting a strategic direction for the organization that builds on its strengths and demonstrates cohesive programming that is sustainable; aligning

resources and internal systems and processes with program priorities; and look at how the organization supports this work through clarifying roles and decision-making.



Butterfly gardens will be the theme of this year's plant sale



The annual plant sale is a two-day deal - three, this year, with the workshop. It is a lot of work, it draws a lot of people, and it brings us both money for projects and new members. Please consider helping out.

## Native plant sale set for May 11-12; advance workshop May 9

The Brodhead Watershed Association's popular Native Plant Sale will take place this year at Northampton Community College, Tannersville campus, on **Friday, May 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** and **Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

This year the sale will be preceded by a **special workshop on Wednesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at NCC.** The topic of the workshop - and the theme of the plant sale - will be "gardening for butterflies."

The workshop price will be \$3 for BWA members and \$4 for non-members. Included will be a BWA mug and light refreshments. Some plants from the sale will be door prizes, with the purchase of chance tickets. Also, at the workshop and

the plant sale, there will be an opportunity to adopt plants for BWA school rain garden projects. Anyone adopting a plant will be entered into a drawing for a free rain barrel.

The workshop will be conducted by landscape designer Robin Petras and environmental educator Darryl Speicher, who will also be present during the sale to make their expertise available to anyone who wants to buy native plants. From Darryl and Robin:

"You can have it all in your yard, an esthetically pleasing landscape that not only looks good but benefits local wildlife while protecting the watershed in which you live. How? By using native plants, capturing the rain that falls on your roof and reducing the area of your prop-

erty devoted to lawn. Native plants help maintain the naturally existing relationships that support local native food webs, while rain gardens help to take the water from your roof top and get it into the ground, and reducing the lawn means less chemical fertilizer and herbicides."

The Friday evening sale will be for members only. Memberships can be obtained or renewed at the sale. Members get a 10 percent discount Friday only. Over 50 varieties of plants, including ferns, shrubs and grasses will be available.

On Friday and Saturday, Geoffrey Mehl, local naturalist, gardener, and author of "A Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of Northeastern Pennsylvania," will be on hand to sign his book and answer questions.

## Multi-year stream bank stability study wraps up

From the summer of 2007 to December 2011, Dr. Shixiong Hu, Associate Professor of Geography at East Stroudsburg University, and his students, studied streams in the Brodhead Watershed, hoping to determine the major causes of streambank failure, or erosion, in the watershed.

Dr. Hu and students walked most of the stream corridors in the watershed and at points every 250 meters assessed upper streambanks, lower streambanks and the stream bed using several criteria with different numerical designations.

Total channel stability was calculated as

the sum of all of the criteria. A high bank stability index correlates to a less stable bank.

Data was also collected from the United States Geological Survey and other public data sources.

The project was funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Students prepared posters and presentations on the study and Dr. Hu is developing a model that will predict likely areas where the stream bank may fail.

Want more? [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org)

## President's corner

Well, spring is quickly approaching, if it has already sprung based on the weather we have had. The BWA schedule of educational and community involvement events for this year is bigger and better than ever. Most of the heavy lifting is behind us on the Mount Pocono Municipal Authority, with a settlement in place. Theresa Merli is in place as the executive director of the organization. We are poised for growth and growth in awareness of the Brodhead Watershed Association.

There is definite high energy coming from our board of directors and its contagious. **WARNING! Danger! High Voltage!** It's fueling all of our efforts moving. Keep an eye out for some great positive changes that will begin to develop this summer as we react to the board's strategic planning retreat in April. I am looking forward to transformation and hope all of you stay along for the ride.

**Rob Sedwin**

## 777 more acres preserved

Paradise and Price townships have acquired 777 acres of open space land spanning the Cranberry Creek watershed and the Brodhead Creek watershed, with about a third of a mile of frontage on the Brodhead and a picturesque horseshoe waterfall. About half of the land is located in each township.

The acquisition is one of the largest single tracts of land acquired for open space in the county.

Want more details? Full story on our Web site:

[www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org)

## BWA offers stewardship grants for student research projects

The Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) invites applications for its "stewardship" research grant program. These grants are designed to promote student research that fosters conservation and attitudes of stewardship toward Pocono watersheds. Of particular interest are projects designed to expand understanding of some aspect of the Brodhead Watershed.

The grants are not limited to any particular field of study. Applications may range from such classically scientific fields as environmental studies, hydrology, geology, geography, biology and chemistry to more diverse areas such as political science, public administration, law, history, environmental education, art and communication. Both graduate and undergraduate students may apply.

However, all projects must have

clearly delineated start and completion dates and be conducted under the supervision of a faculty member of a university, college or community college. Studies involving human participants or animal subjects must be approved by the appropriate institutional review board.

Funding may be used to pay for such items as texts, supplies or equipment needed to complete a research project, travel to and from a research site, presentations of a completed research project or similar uses.

Funding for this grant program comes from donations to a special BWA fund created to honor the work and commitment of the BWA's beloved former president, the late Dr. Jeri Jewett-Smith. The BWA invites additional support for this program.

Based on current principal and

continuing commitments, the BWA anticipates awarding grants of up to \$500 for the 2012-2013 cycle.

The deadline for applications is April 15, 2012. Awards will be announced on May 8, 2012. Funds from this round of grants must be used between May 8, 2012 and May 1, 2013.

## Correction!

Our Spring issue contained an error. The new Brodhead Creek Regional Authority sewage treatment plant in downtown Stroudsburg, which could go on line as early as this fall, will NOT have a pulse discharge.

We'll have more on this interesting new facility in the summer edition of *Streamlines*.

## Encourage a Friend to Join Today

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Preferred method of receiving BWA news & info:

Regular Mail  E-mail  Both

### Circle One:

Family \$30 Individual \$15 Senior \$10

Student \$5 Contributor \$100

Adopt-A-Stream Site \$250

### Return, with your check to:

Brodhead Watershed Association  
Box 339, Henryville, PA 18332

The official registration and financial information of Brodhead Watershed Association may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free, within Pennsylvania.

# Have one for the Watershed!

TANNERSVILLE-- A new "Exceptional Value" waterway will be designated in the Poconos on Sunday, April 1: Barley Creek.

Wait. Isn't that a brewery/restaurant near the outlet mall?

Well, yes.

But it IS April Fool's Day.

And Barley Creek is producing a special brew for the summer that will be labeled under the "Brodhead Watershed Ale" name and raise money for us.

So isn't that an exceptional value?

Here's the details:

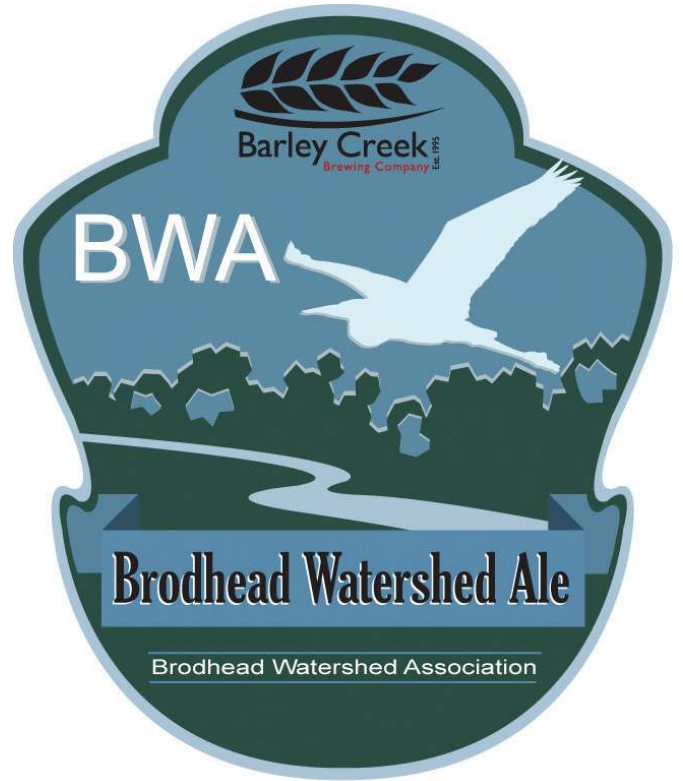
Brodhead Watershed Ale is a cranberry hefeweizen, a German-style wheat ale. It will be launched with

a celebration from 4-6 p.m. from the Barley Creek upper deck pavilion, weather permitting, or in the Onyx Bar Room at the rear of the restaurant.

Buy a pint of ale and help protect your local environment. Happy hour price will be \$2.50 per pint for the kickoff event (\$1 less than the normal \$3.50 fare) and at either price a pint of ale will provide a \$1 donation towards the BWA. If purchased with a Brodhead Watershed Ale glass for an additional \$2.50, an additional \$1.50 will be donated.

*Many thanks to Trip Ru-vane, 'publican' and president of Barley Creek Brewing Company.*

Contact us: (570) 839-1120 brodheadwatershed@gmail.com www.brodheadwatershed.org



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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