



Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2015

YOU NEED TO KNOW

Clean Water cleaned up

At last, the Clean Water Act has more clarity.

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act to protect all "waters of the United States." It is still the primary guard protecting our nation's waters, but by the early 21st century, there were chinks in its armor.

In 2001 and 2006 decisions, the Supreme Court narrowly interpreted the scope of waters covered by the act, weakening safeguards for 20 million wetland acres and two million stream miles.

These unguarded streams made up 60% of the United States' stream miles. Our drinking water, our fish and many wildlife species were at risk for pollution and destruction.

A finalized 2014 rule by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers clarifies the scope of the Clean Water Act, reinforcing the act's legal and scientific foundations while strengthening protection for America's waters.

Now, the Clean Water Act is more precise, more predictably determined, and easier for businesses and industry to understand.

To learn more about the rule and what it does and doesn't do, see www2.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule.



Ready to Ramble on the Brodhead

By Jeff Feick

Brodhead Watershed Association invites everyone to join the annual River Ramble, this year featuring the Upper Brodhead, from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9.

Don't miss this opportunity to visit the scenic and historic Brodhead Hunting and Fishing Club at 3775 Creek Road, Canadensis.

There will be a variety of activities for families to enjoy at this celebration

of the Brodhead Creek and the watershed in which we live and play.

Stations throughout the expansive property of the club will be staffed by some of the area's finest naturalists. While the event begins and ends at Brodhead Hunting and Fishing Club, several locations nearby will also be staffed by presenters eager to share their knowledge and love of the Brodhead watershed.

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A full summer of fun and good works: Join us!

What are you doing this summer?

The BWA is busy, as usual.

The Native Plant Sale, Cherry Valley Festival and the Intro to Fly Fishing event have been successful, and more programs will follow.

This year, the popular annual River Ramble will be held Aug. 9 on the Upper Brodhead, hosted by Brodhead Hunting and Fishing Club in Canadensis.

The River Ramble traditionally highlights some fantastic, often privately protected places, such as those of the many long-time fishing clubs and preserves within the watershed.

By following best practices for land management – such as maintaining riparian buffers and preserving the forested land in the headwaters – these clubs have helped maintain the “exceptional value” streams we all enjoy.

Board meeting for members

Before the Ramble, we have a board meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday,



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Smith

Aug. 3, on the back deck of ForEvergreen Nature Preserve in Analomink.

Most of you have not come to a board meeting, though they are open to members. This is your chance to see how it works, and to get further involved.

BWA is always looking for those of you who are committed to protecting the watershed, and you may have the skills we need.

Please come to this meeting. Bring your own folding chair. Engage in the discussion. We need your talents.

Annual celebration

It's also time for us to begin collecting auction items for the annual celebration, to be held Friday,

Oct. 2, at the Monroe campus of Northampton Community College.

In response to those of you who want more time at the auction, we have a surprise. This year, a light repast – rather than full dinner – will be served, as we socialize around the auction tables.

We need your help to make this work. So what items can you provide to help BWA at its principal fundraising event of the year?

How about a canoe or kayak, wine and cheese basket, artwork, fishing gear, weekend getaway, a membership at Josie Porter Farm, coupons/gift certificates for fine dining, season passes to Camelback or Shawnee, a round of golf at Glenview or Water Gap Country Club, and many, many more.

Be creative. Call your friends and ask them for a tax-deductible donation to support BWA. Then call us so we can make the final arrangements.

It's your time to get more involved in the operations and funding of BWA, and I believe you will find satisfaction and enjoyment helping BWA meet its financial goals.

Welcome, new members!

Brian, Rita & Mae Lacey of Kunkletown, Peggy Stewart of East Stroudsburg, James McMullen of North Catasauqua, Paula & Jim Horvath of Effort, Rosalinda Davila & Evelinda Vanmater of East Stroudsburg, Lisa Oser of Cresco, Bill Reese of East Stroudsburg, Alice Makla of Mount Pocono, Frances Woo of Stroudsburg, Barbara McMahon of East Stroudsburg, Gary & Kathie Calandra of Cresco, Patrick Shevlin of Stroudsburg, Robert & Marcia Bell of Telford, Theresa Warnagiris of Stroudsburg, Kathleen Kise of Tannersville, Tom & Doreen Bammer of Pocono Lake, Douglas & Laura Kerr of Cresco, Eugenia Hasenecz of Pocono Summit, David Parker of Stroudsburg



Eagle watching was a popular part of the Earth Day event at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve. Russell Thrall III captured this photo that day.

Looking our best on the Web

Have you seen our newly redesigned website? Reorganized and revised to please online eyes, www.brodheadwatershed.org is your one-stop shop for BWA news, local events, and environmental information.



Find us and follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram!

BWA FACES



Al Johnson shows his environmental dedication by keeping a rain barrel outside his business, Pocono Cheesecake Factory.

Al Johnson

Name: Alfred S. Johnson
(but just call him Al)

Age: 66

Town: Cresco, Paradise Valley

Occupation: Owner of Pocono Cheesecake Factory

Capacity at BWA: Board member and chairman of the Development Committee

Member since: 1990

Favorite BWA event: River Ramble

What prompted him to join

BWA: An awareness of the need to protect our natural resources.

What he would like to see BWA do in future: Remain vigilant in its efforts to protect our most valuable natural resource (think Southern California).

Favorite place in the Poconos: Devil's Hole Gorge. It was one of my first exposures to the unspoiled natural beauty of the Poconos. Years ago, I enjoyed many long horseback rides through this beautiful area. Admiring mountain laurel, rhododendron, trees, fall foliage, the view of the Knob, the Water Gap, and the gorge. With the water falls and the pristine stream, it truly is a place in Paradise.

RAMBLE

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These "Ramble Stops" include Targa Falls on Paradise-Price Preserve, with a spectacular view of the only natural waterfall on Brodhead Creek; Stony Run, an "exceptional value" tributary of Brodhead Creek; beautiful Zimmer Wildlife Sanctuary; and many other naturally gorgeous sites not always open to the public.

Afterward, enjoy good food and conversation at the traditional after-Ramble party, from 4 to 5 p.m. at Brodhead Hunting and Fishing Club's new clubhouse overlooking Brodhead Creek.

Suggested donation is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers, with a \$2 discount for pre-registration. Children under 12 participate for free.

To register or for information, visit brodheadwatershed.org/riverramble.html or call 570-839-1120.

Clean water: It's your right

Article 1 Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution – Environmental Rights Amendment – guarantees you the right to pure waters:

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

This right to clean air and pure water is equivalent to the right to free speech.

This amendment, passed in 1971, was unanimously approved by ALL members of the state Senate and House. A true bipartisan effort.

The people of Pennsylvania voted 4-1 in favor of it.

In 2013, a state Supreme Court ruling made it clear that every government official in Pennsylvania on every government level had an obligation to protect these environmental rights and to ground their decision on sound science. **Failure to fulfill this obligation opens them to legal attack.**

■ To learn more about this amendment and the 2013 Act 13 Ruling: www.delawariverkeeper.org/faqs.pdf

■ For information on For the Generations, the Delaware Riverkeepers Network effort to educate the public about the Environmental Rights Amendment: www.delawariverkeeper.org/forthegenerations.html



Stroud Fest 2015

On Saturday, Sept. 5, the annual Stroud Fest will fill the downtown streets of Stroudsburg from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Brodhead Watershed Association members will be there, and they'll bring their rubber duckies.

The plastic poultry will help educate the public on the dangers of duck-feeding. How? You'll have to visit the BWA booth to find out.

Prizes will be given to the luckiest ducks.

Watch for details at brodheadwatershed.org and in your monthly Streamlines e-newsletter.

CALENDAR

DEVIL'S HOLE CREEK "WET FOOT" WALK (Where in the Watershed Walk #16)

Sunday, July 19, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Explore the moister areas of State Gamelands 221 with Don Miller and Bill Sweeney. Suggested donation is To register, call 570-424-1514 or email info@phlt.org. Suggested donation: \$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers.

RIVER RAMBLE

Sunday, Aug. 9, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Explore the Upper Brodhead in this popular annual event. This year, the extensive Creekside grounds of Brodhead Hunting and Fishing Club will be featured. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers; children participate for free. There is a \$2 discount for pre-registration. Sign up at brodheadwatershed.org, or call 570-895-1120.

HIKE TO FALL CREEK/BOWER RUN

(Where in the Watershed Walk #17)

Saturday, Sept. 12, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Don Miller and Jim Connor will lead this hike on McMichael Creek at Pohoqualine Fishing Association. To register, call 570-424-1514 or email info@phlt.org. Suggested donation: \$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers.

HIKE TO SPRUCE MOUNTAIN (Where in the Watershed Walk #18)

Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m. to noon

Grace Nolt and Sally Duffy host this short, Saturday morning hike starting at Spruce Lake Retreat. To register, call 570-424-1514 or email info@phlt.org. Suggested donation: \$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers.

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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