

STREAM LINES

The Newsletter of the
Brodhead Watershed Association



Published by and for BWA members

Spring 2007

Replace Invasive Plants With Native Plants—see Page 3



Garlic Mustard



Blue Flag Iris

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Can We Teach Old Dogs New Tricks?

The Monroe County Water Quality Study for 2006 has alarming news about trends throughout the Brodhead watershed.

According to the study, the Brodhead Creek upstream of its confluence with the Delaware River is in trouble. At this site, the study reports seriously degrading macro invertebrate trending scores and it “exhibit(s) a large amount of fungus/algae in combination with a type of pappy/wood pulp substance that is found on the stream bottom.” Further testing needs to be done to understand exactly what the pulp substance is. Serious problems are also reported on the Tobyhanna Creek and on the Scot Run Creek above the confluence with Pocono Creek.

In all three cases, the trouble appears to be caused by sewage treatment plants (STP) upstream.

The Department of Environmental Protection is well aware that the ‘model’ it uses for issuing permits for STP’s is not working in these high quality streams. And yet, because of existing regulations, a new STP has recently been approved – by both the DEP and the Delaware River Basin Commission

(DRBC) – in Pocono Township for a 2 million gallon per day plant. The Pocono STP will send its treated effluent through a 6 mile pipe through the heart of unwilling Stroud Township to discharge at a location in the Brodhead that sees some of the heaviest recreational use in the county - the Brodhead Creek Park.

While BWA understands the real need for wastewater solutions, we have argued strenuously against this chosen solution for well over a year. We continue to insist that not only is this solution the wrong choice, it flies in the face of years of regional comprehensive planning efforts on the part of many volunteers in Hamilton, Stroud, and Pocono townships and the Borough of Stroudsburg. Pocono Township has refused to sign the Intermunicipal Agreement, key to the Regional Plan, precisely because it would have forced a different solution. Relying on outdated thinking and engineering, this Pocono project, with Hamilton Township tagging along, is moving forward ... with DEP and DRBC permission (i.e. permits).

It has been known for quite a few years that there is something broken in the permit process. Because of out dated regulations, our

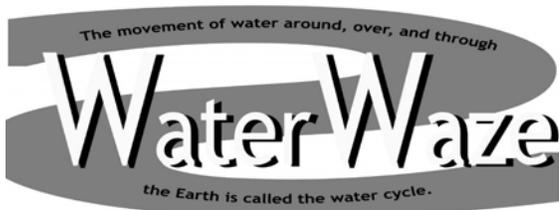
regulatory bodies are literally breaking the law (under the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Clean Streams Law) by issuing permits that have the cumulative effect of degrading these high quality headwater streams.

Another article in this issue reports on a program designed to teach sixth graders, the decision makers of the future, how to care for the watershed they live in. (see page 2)

Unfortunately, the program has yet to be designed that can quickly and effectively teach our current local and state decision makers how to be forward thinking and protect our high quality water for the next generation of decision makers. The BWA, along with other members of the Watershed Alliance, is working on ways to get through to the DEP, DRBC, planners, engineers, and municipal officials. *Your support is essential.* Write letters to the editor, Call your state and local representatives. Ask candidates for public office about their positions on water quality.

And while you’re at it, recruit two or three new members for BWA!

Together, we can make a difference.



First Annual Water Alliance WaterWaze Festival

Teaching Our Children
to Be Wise in the Ways of Water

If you've ever had to drag a prune-y, wrinkled, protesting child out of the bathtub, pool or pond, you know that kids and water are a natural match. Kids' curiosity makes them natural scientists. Take those two facts of life, shake them up together, and you have the beginnings of WaterWaze, the new watershed festival set for May 18 at Northampton Community College in Tannersville.

WaterWaze is geared to sixth-graders – 322 of them to be exact – from Pocono Elementary Center and Swiftwater Elemen-

tary Center. During two, two-hour sessions, the boys and girls will get hands-on presentations covering how the water cycle works in a watershed, what a watershed is, how water quality helps or hurts the bugs, fish, and animals that depend on it, why wetlands are so important, and more. Watershed Jeopardy, anyone?

The Monroe County Watershed Alliance is the sponsor, led by Watershed Specialist Trish Attardo of the Monroe County Conservation District. Funding and support come from

BWA, PPL, MCCD, and Northampton Community College. Presenters will be from Penn State Cooperative Extension, PA Department of Environmental Protection, RSVP, Monroe County Vector Control, MCCD, Trout Unlimited, Hanover Engineering, National Park Service, Wildlands Conservancy, Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation and Development Council, and Shawnee Preservation Society. Dozens of volunteers will also be helping.

Look for photos of the event in our next newsletter!

Have fun. Get wet. Learn to be a creek-walker!

Knowing where invasive plants are located is an important first step in controlling them. And how can you find out where the invasives are along our streams? Creek-walking!

It's fun – and a great way to contribute to the BWA's invasive species management study. You can find out more and learn how to be a creek-walker on Saturday, May 5, at 10 AM, at Monroe

County Conservation District, on Running Valley Road in Bartonsville. You and other volunteers will learn about invasive riparian plants, including how to identify them and how to map them. Then, creek-walking days will be scheduled to get the job done.

No special equipment required. An old pair of boots or sneakers, an inquiring mind, and a willingness to help are all you need. Please contact project coordinator Edie Stevens, 839-8130, estevens@ptd.net or BWA office, 839-1120, brodheadwatershed@verizon.net, for more information.



The Brodhead Creek in May

BWA Native Plant Sale—April 21—Partnering with Monroe County Conservation District Seedling Sale

By now, gardeners are itching to get growing. You'll find a wealth of interesting native plants at the BWA's annual "Going Native" plant sale.

Choose from dozens of native perennials and shrubs. Flowering plants, or wildlife habitat – whatever your goals for your garden, plants that will help are here. The plants are seedlings, two to three years old, and 12 to 24 inches tall. They range in price from \$2.00 to \$20.00 depending on the variety and age of plant. Whether for your own garden, a township beautification project, or a Scout or service organization, these native plants are good for the garden and good for the Poconos' ecology.

Save the date on your calendar! It's Saturday, April 21, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Monroe County Conservation District on Running Valley Road in Bartonsville. Master Gardeners will be on hand offering advice, answering questions, helping with garden design, and making recommendations based on your specific garden needs. We'll have information on invasive plants and on how to build a rain garden. And the Conser-

vation District will be selling a variety of tree seedlings.

All proceeds of the sale will be used in continuing the BWA's mission of teaching landowners and the general public about protecting our water quality and quantity.

For directions to the sale, visit www.monroecd.org, or www.brodheadwatershed.org

For a list of plants for sale, visit www.brodheadwatershed.org. Other questions – call BWA at 839-1120.

(Sorry, no pre-orders)

Partial List of Available Plants

Spring Ephemerals

Trillium Grandiflorum (Showy Wake Robin)
Trillium Sessile (Common Toadshade)
Sanguinaria Canadensis (Bloodroot)

Herbaceous plants

Amsonia tabernaemontana (Eastern Bluestar, also called Willow-leaved Bluestar)
Ironweed (Veronia noveboracensis)

Wild Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)
Blue Flag Iris (Iris versicolor)
Pink Turtlehead (Chelone Lyoni 'Hot Lips')
Baptisia australis (Wild Blue Indigo)
Thermopsis caroliniana (Carolina Lupine)
Chrysogonum virginianum 'Allen Bush' (Golden Star)
Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)
Ruellia humilis (Wild Petunia)
Agastache 'Blue Fortune' (Hyssop)
Grasses
Carex flaccosperma (Blue Wood Sedge)
Northern Oat Grass (Chasmanthium latifolium)
Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Forster' (Feather Reed grass)

Fern

Matteuccia struthiopteris (Ostrich Fern) (Deer resistant)

Shrubs

Serviceberry (Amelanchier Canadensis)
Native Witchhazel (Hamamelis virginiana)
Elderberry (Sambucus canadensis)

Replace Invasive Garlic Mustard Plant with a Native



Garlic mustard, an invasive plant found just about everywhere in the watershed, is a cool-season, biennial herb. "Biennial" means it has a two-year life: in the first year, the plants are a rosette of heart-shaped leaves, close to the ground, as in this photo. These plants stay green through the winter and then in early spring of the second year leap into action.

By May, stalks of two or three feet in height will grow from these ro-

settes and bear triangular or heart-shaped leaves that smell like garlic when crushed. They quickly set seed in long thin, shiny black pods. By late June the plants are dying back until all that is left by summer's end is the buff-colored papery remains of the seed pods, often with seeds still inside. If you see it, pull it up! Try to get all of the root to prevent the plant from re-growing.

Then plant a Native in its place.

Watershed Watch

Recent applications filed and permits granted in the Brodhead watershed, from the PA Bulletin

Applications for discharge of stormwater for construction activities

Dec 16

DEPG Stroud Associates LP, Stroud Township, discharge to Wigwam Run

CMC Development Corp, Hamilton Twp., discharge to Cherry Creek

Monroe-Pike Land, LLC, Stroud and Pocono twps., discharge to UNT to Brodhead Creek

Feb 17

Sanofi-Pasteur, Pocono Twp., discharge to Swiftwater Creek

DEPG Bartonsville Associates, Stroud Twp., discharge to Pocono Creek

Permits for discharges of stormwater for construction activities

Dec 2

E. Stroudsburg Borough, General Permit for discharge to Brodhead Creek

Jan 20

M. Zimmerman, Jackson Twp., discharge to Trout Lake

Stroud Commons, Stroud Twp., discharge to Pocono Creek

J Dipipi, Wood Haven Dev. Co., Stroud Twp., discharge to Big Meadow Run

Jan 27

M. Zimmerman, Jackson Twp., discharge to Trout Lake

Pocon Mtn. School District, Paradise Twp., UNT to Forest Hills Run

Feb 24

Ski Shawnee, Inc., Smithfield & Mid. Smithfield Twp., discharge to Shawnee Creek

Applications for NPDES permits for wastewater discharges

Dec 2 - Renewal

Monsignor McHugh High School, Paradise Twp., discharge to UNT to Paradise Creek

Dec 9 - Renewal

Snydersville Diner, Hamilton Twp., discharge to Kettle Creek

Mar 10 - NEW

Pocono Township Supervisors, Pocono, Hamilton, Stroud twps., 2.0 mgd discharge to Brodhead

NPDES Permits for wastewater discharges

Dec 16

Barton Court Mobile Home Park, discharge to UNT to Pocono Creek

Dec 23

PA American Water Co, Stroud Twp., discharge to Sambo Creek

Feb 10

D. Bittenbender, Hamilton Twp., UNT to Lake Creek

Water Quality Management – Applications & Permits

Jan 13

Middle Smithfield Twp, permit issued for a sewage treatment facility

Feb 24

Sanofi Pasteur, Inc., application for expansion of existing landscape and spray irrigation system

Water Obstructions and Encroachments – Applications & Permits

Feb 3 (also in Feb 17)

DEPG Stroud Associates, LP, place fill in .48 acres of wetlands to construct a shopping center

J.P. Ertle Development, LTD, to change the channel for 485 feet of a tributary to Pocono Creek to construct a shopping center

Water Obstructions and Encroachments – Permits

Feb 24

Paradise Township – permits issued to add 36 foot extension to a 190 foot long pipe for a UNT to Forest Hills Run and to construct a new bridge on Woodland Rd over Forest Hills Run for a new access road .

Dam Safety Permits

Feb 17

Ski Shawnee, Inc., construct and repair existing earth fill dam for snow-making pond.

DRBC Project Approvals

Feb 28

Renew a surface withdrawal from Forest Hills Run by Mount Airy #1, LLC, for golf course irrigation. Permit a new groundwater withdrawal for PA American Water at Blue Mountain Lake

DRBC Project Applications

Feb 1

Mount Airy #1, LLC, Paradise Twp., renew surface water withdrawal of up to 14 mg/30 days from Forest Hills Run for golf course irrigation.

Smithfield Township Sewer Authority, expand STP from .4 mgd to 1.0 mgd, discharge to Little Sambo Creek

Rock-Tenn., Delaware Water Gap Borough, approval of existing non-contact cooling water and industrial waste discharge, (0.295 mgd) to Brodhead Creek.

Pocono Manor Investors, LP, Pocono Township, new groundwater withdrawal of up to 30.24 mg/30 days, in Swiftwater/Paradise watershed.

Community Events

Poconos Climate Action Day Delaware Water Gap

Saturday, April 14th, 2007
10:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Main Street

Music, Art, Food, Nature Walks and Energy Fest

Pocono Mountain Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee

April 10
Women in Business Lunch
Save the Planet Awards.

April 28
Litter Pick up—8:00am
Meet at Delaware Water
Gap exit ramp off of 80 by
Welcome Center.

Call Miriam 421-4433
for lunch tickets or more
information

Barrett Township Earth Day Celebration

Sunday April 22nd—High Acres Park—Citizen of the Year Award— Music—Crafts—Food and Fun

Watch Local Publications for more Infomation

River Ramble IV— May 26 1 to 5 pm

New this year—Fly Casting Clinic

Plan on coming out for the fourth annual River Ramble sponsored by the BWA and Barrett Friendly Library.

You get to see beautiful private and public streams, waterfalls, and wetlands . . . learn about what you're seeing from some of our area's most knowledgeable naturalists. . . enjoy good food and drink at the after-Ramble party in a historic converted barn . . . and support two great causes at the same time!

New this year – on the morning of the Ramble, Nancy Hopping will offer fly-casting lessons for beginners and troubleshooting for the more advanced who want to perfect their fly-casting skills.

Nancy teaches basic and advanced fly-fishing classes in freshwater and saltwater out on location or privately on her own property.

Nancy has published articles and fly patterns in fly-fishing magazines and books, and teaches casting clinics and "saltwater 101" programs throughout the area. She also works with "Casting for Recovery" in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, teaching women recovering from breast cancer how to fly-fish. A new project is "Healing Waters" in New Jersey, a program teaching injured Veterans how to fly fish.

Nancy has more than 16 years of fly fishing knowledge, perfecting her fish-

ing skills by living on the water she fishes and photographs.

Bring your own rod. Children 10 and over welcome. Lessons and clinic space is limited! Please call or email BWA, 839-1120, brodheadwater-shed@verizon.net to reserve.

To take part in lessons or the clinic, the donation is \$25 – and includes both the River Ramble and after-Ramble party.

For the Ramble and party only, the donation is \$15 in advance or \$20 on the day of the event. Gather a group of friends and make a day of it! For more information, contact BWA or Carol Hillestad at 629-2727 jimhill@ptd.net.

Mark Your Calendar !

April 14— **Poconos Climate Action Day**— 10am to 4pm Dutot Museum and Deer Head Inn.

April 21 - **BWA Native Plant Sale**— In conjunction with Monroe County Conservation District Seedling sale 9am to 1pm

April 28—**Chamber of Commerce Litter Pick Up**— meet at the Parking lot of Welcome Center off of I-80 east exit ramp - Delaware-Water Gap

April 22—**Barrett Township Earth Day Celebration**— High Acres Park

May 5—**Creek Walk Training**— 10 am at MCCD

May 26—**BWA River Ramble** - To reserve tickets call BWA (570) 839-1120 or Carol Hillestead (570) 629-2727 or email jimhill@ptd.net

Welcome to new BWA Members !

Kim Baldwin * John Guthrie * Amy Kresock * Mary Lachi * Kim & Daniel Larkin * Greg Latsko * Diane Mallalieu

Great Wolf Lodge

First Palmerton National Bank

Invite a Friend to Join BWA Today!!

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Circle One:

Family \$30 Individual \$15

Senior \$10 Student \$5

Contributor \$100

Adopt-A-Stream Site \$250

Other \$ _____

Return 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, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Brodhead Watershed Association

Box 339

Henryville, PA 18332

U.S Postage

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Mt Pocono, PA 18344

Permit No. 12



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.

Contributing to this issue: Carol Hillestad, Theresa Merli, Edie Stevens and John Styk

