



WINTER 2009

SAVE THE DATE:

NATIVE PLANT SALE

May 14 for BWA Members
May 15th for the Public
At the MCCC

**KEYSTONE COLDWATER
CONFERENCE**

February 19 & 20

Penn State Conference Center &
Hotel, State College, PA

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

DEP and PEMA Get Results 2

BWA Elects New Board Members and Officers 2

Brodhead Watershed Nominated as Critical Water Planning Area 3

BWA Becomes a DCNR iConservePA Partner 3

Water Facts: "H2Ology" 3

Trout Trails & Tales Continues to Provide Awareness 4

WELCOME NEW BWA MEMBERS!

Amy Seidel

William Manner

Martha Carbone

Gale Knapp

Grace Nolt

Pat Dougherty

Elizabeth Musgrave

Thomas Harley, Jr.

Pocono Lawn &

Landscaping



Creating a Greenway from Stroud to Skytop

By: Carol Hillestad

Northeastern Monroe County still has large and beautiful tracts of undeveloped land, providing an important resource for residents and visitors alike. Tourists and seasonal residents continue to be major drivers of the local economy, and protecting these natural resources is key to maintaining that economic edge.

A local group, which grew out of the Regional Open Space committee, has been working for more than a year on "The Upper Brodhead-Paradise Creeks Greenway Plan." The plan is a blueprint for how to achieve long-term conservation of this part of the County. The plan touches on a wide range of related subjects, such as:

- protecting some of the finest water quality in the Commonwealth, including six Exceptional Value tributaries. This also protects drinking water quality for downstream residents.

- preserving historic trout fishing water,
- safeguarding the largest concentration of parcels over 100 acres in the county,
- buffering State Forest and State Gamelands,
- insuring the protection of a nationally recognized scenic drive,
- and creating 25 miles of potential greenway corridors.

Barrett Township, as lead municipality for Barrett, Paradise and Price Townships and Mt. Pocono Borough, applied for and received a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant, and additional funds from the Monroe County Open Space Initiative, will fund the Plan.

Once implemented, the greenway would extend from the northern boundary of Stroud Township into the "mountain towns," including parts of the upper Brodhead watershed and the Paradise watershed. The Plan will detail the wishes of the community and community priorities relating to creating the greenway, after which each municipality will then be responsible for implementing its portion of the plan.

A public meeting was held on November 19 to provide an update on the plan-

ning progress – you can see visuals from the presentation at <http://www.brodheadwatershed.org/news.html>. Importantly, this greenway plan is being done on a watershed scale, covering 110 square miles, rather than as a corridor based on a stream, highway, or arbitrary municipal boundary. All the streams are designated High Quality or Exceptional Value by DEP for protection, making this a significant ecosystem – comparable to resources like the Adirondacks and the Rockies, not in size, but in terms of value.

Next steps are to identify particular land parcels that are important to meet the goals of the plan. Future issues of Streamlines will continue to cover this very important process as it unfolds. To be part of the Plan development, contact Pat Dougherty, 595-6001.





Photo Credit: Don Miller



Photo Credit: Don Miller

BWA Elects New Board Members and Officers

Amy Baird, Eric Baird, Tom Harley, Tim Herd and Amy Seidel were unanimously elected to the Board of Directors at the BWA 20th Anniversary Dinner and membership meeting. At the board meeting held on November 2nd at the MCCD offices the board unanimously elected ESU Associate Professor, Pat Kennedy to the post of President, replacing Don Baylor, who has retired from this position but will continue on as an executive Board member. Additionally, Rob Sedwin, local businessperson was elected as Vice President, filling the slot left vacant by Pat Kennedy. Existing executives, Edie Stevens, Vice President, Marlo Merhige, Treasurer and Anne Fetherman, Secretary will continue in their current capacities. The Board of Directors and Officers would like to thank the retiring board members, Joe Bedrick, Michele Farley, Rick Porvaznik and John Woodling for their efforts and contributions during their tenure.

By: Kietryn Zychal

One night last month, I arrived home after nightfall. My headlights illuminated a dark stain on the road, and I realized there must have been an accident in front of my house. The next morning, I saw a very large pile of kitty litter piled up at the end of my driveway in the tall grass by the roadside. I pulled over my car to take a look at it. I realized it was the material they spread on hazardous spills to soak up toxic fluids. It's actually hazardous waste and is supposed to be taken away after an accident. Someone had simply swept the kitty litter onto my lawn and left it there! The pile was so big, I was able to fill a "Big Gulp" plastic cup without making a noticeable dent in the mound. It was the day of the big snowstorm in October, and the roads were already starting to get wet from the melting snow.

I drove down the road to the corner deli with my Big Gulp of hazardous waste and asked a Pocono Mountain Regional Police officer whose responsibility it was clean up the kitty litter after an accident. He told me it was called "Speedi Dry" and that the tow truck driver or the Fire Department should have cleaned it up- whichever one had been called. I knew Pocono Summit Volunteer Firemen wouldn't be careless enough to leave hazardous waste on someone's lawn. The officer told me to go to the Police Station to find out which tow truck com-

pany had responded to an accident on my road the previous day.

The secretary at PMRP had a good customer service attitude and she understood my annoyance at having a pile of hazardous waste in my driveway. She disappeared into the inner sanctum of the police station and came back with an answer. "It was tow truck company X," she said. She even looked up the phone number for me in the phone book.

As I was leaving the police station, I called the tow truck company from my cellphone. They put me on hold, leaving me to listen to the commercial they play in lieu of hold music. A voice proudly announced that Tow Truck Company X was licensed by PEMA- the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency- to clean up hazardous spills. When someone finally answered the phone, I demanded that someone come to my house immediately to clean up the Speedi Dry they left on my lawn after an accident and I let her know I would be filing a complaint with DEP and PEMA.

I called the DEP complaint number (866-255-5158) and spoke with Mary Beth in DEP's Northeast Regional office - coincidentally the same person I spoke to the last time I called DEP to complain about a spill in my neighborhood. While I was on the phone with Mary Beth, I received a call from the

tow truck company. They told me it couldn't possibly be them! They make more money when they clean up a spill. Why would they leave profit on my lawn? I asked them why the police would tell me it was them if it wasn't? They said it had to be tow truck company E, M or S.

Then I called PEMA's Eastern Area at 800-372-7362. I said, "I'm a middle aged woman and I'm ticked off- are you ready for this?" And the good natured guy who answered the phone said, "Lay it on me." I told him I wasn't sure which tow truck company left Speedi Dry on my lawn, but I wanted to file a complaint. PEMA called PMRP and they spent a little more time looking through the police reports and found out that it was actually Tow Truck Company B.

So, I called Tow Truck Company B and I wasn't very nice to them. And PEMA called Tow Truck Company B. And then I called DEP and filed a complaint against Tow Truck Company B. The story has a happy ending. Mary Beth at DEP had already called Tobyhanna Township and the Department of Public Works agreed to come out in the snowstorm and clean up the Speedi Dry rather than depend on Tow Truck Company B who had already proven to be unreliable.

The moral of the story: call the DEP to report spills. Even though they had their budget slashed 25%, Mary Beth still has a job and she's there to help you.

Brodhead Watershed Nominated as Critical Water Planning Area

When PA DEP started to update the State Water Plan five years ago (the first update in 25 years), it looked to us like a lot of bean-counting and not much else. Users of more than 10,000 gallons of water per day were required to register their withdrawals – a first in PA. Most did, with much complaining.

Now that the beans have been counted, and we can see where water stresses exist, or might develop, the Brodhead watershed is getting a closer look. When withdrawals and discharges are plugged into a model developed by the US Geological Survey, some areas of the watershed seem to come up short—as potentially unable to support all the water demands made on it.

We've already learned from a close look at the Pocono watershed that when the watershed is fully developed, under current zoning, base flow of the Pocono Creek will decrease by 30%. That means that fish, and the bugs they depend on, may not survive.

Pat Kennedy, Theresa Merli and Edie Stevens traveled to Allentown recently to support the nomination of the Brodhead watershed as a Critical Water Planning Area. A CWPA is an area that preliminary studies suggest needs a closer look. Three watersheds in the Delaware watershed were nominated, the Brodhead among them. One will be selected to go to the next step, development of a Plan to protect the water resources.

Theresa pointed out the strong consensus that exists in Monroe County to plan proactively for future growth and environmental protection. Pat used a personal anecdote to support the need for scientifically sound planning. Edie provided information on the larger amount of forest land in private ownership in the Upper Brodhead and Paradise sub-watersheds and the importance of protecting forests to protect water quality. All urged that the Brodhead watershed be selected to take the next steps, developing the sound science on which good plans are built.

Water Facts: "H₂Ology"

How does fresh water affect you?

Our daily need for fresh water connects us to every other person and species on the planet. But just how much do we need, and how much do we have?

- 13 gallons—amount of water in a human body*
- 15 gallons—amount of water a person drinks each month*
- 50 gallons—amount of water used indoors by one American every day*
- <1%—amount of Earth's fresh water that flows freely*
- 2-3 days—amount of time the average human can live without water*

Already, approximately one out of six people lacks access to clean drinking water; four out of six are afflicted with waterborne illness. Our growing population is placing increasingly unsustainable demands on this vital resource. Discover how CI is fighting to make sure every person on Earth has the water they need to survive. Learn more at...

<http://magazine.conservation.org/online/04/index.html#page07>

BWA Becomes a DCNR iConservePA Partner

The BWA has signed up to be posted as an iConservePA partner to show how we are taking steps to help conserve our natural resources and educate the public about the value of these resources.

iConservePA hopes to keep Pennsylvanians thinking about what conservation should mean to them and to gain a greater understanding of Pennsylvania's precious natural resources. By associating with iConservePA the BWA believes this is another way to get involved and make a difference.

The iConservePA web site managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, whose vision is to inspire citizens to value their natural resources, engage in conservation practices and experience the outdoors.

Be sure to visit their site and sign up to become a personal partner. Go to:

<http://www.iconservepa.org/>



Give the Gift of Clean Water

Donate a gift membership in someone's name to the Brodhead Watershed Association. Show your love of the great outdoors and let your loved ones know you're concerned about the future of the environment.

MEMBERSHIP FORM	
Complete this form and mail it with your tax-deductible contribution to:	
Brodhead Watershed Association Box 339, Henryville, PA 18332	
Circle One: Family \$30 Individual \$15 Senior \$10 Student \$5 Contributor \$100 Adopt-A-Stream Site \$250 Other \$ _____	
Call me. I'm interested in volunteering with BWA	
Thank you!	
Your Name	_____
Street	_____
City	_____ Zip _____
Phone	_____
Email	_____
Gifted Member's Name	
Street	
City _____ Zip _____	
Phone _____	
Email _____	

Trout Trails & Tales Continues to Provide Awareness



By: Rob Sedwin

On October 22nd, 2009 the BWA and the Pocono Arts Council (PAC) were rewarded for their efforts creating a successful collaboration to promote environmental awareness through the promotion of the Arts. The *Pennsylvania Environmental Council* presented these two Monroe County non-profit organizations with the "Environmental Partnership" award recognizing their collaborative efforts producing the Trout Trails and Tales project of 2008.

The BWA and the PAC are one of eight recipients recognized by this year's award. The acceptance of this award is an acknowledgement of the joint effort that both local community organizations completed to help bring awareness to the pristine waterways of the Brodhead Watershed, and the varied talents of local artist. Julie McMonagle, Vice President, PA Environmental Council, Northeast Office stated in her letter to, BWA past President and current BWA board member, Therese Merli "The success of the Environmental Partnership Awards Program depends on... candidates with strong environmental backgrounds and the ability to form partnerships."

Theresa Merli stated, "This is great positive recognition about how multiple businesses and non-profit organizations with separate missions can work together to create awareness of important issues with wonderful results."

Laura Goss, Executive Director of the Pocono Arts Council added "We were delighted to have participated with the BWA on this project. It clearly illustrated the importance that Art and creativity has in our lives and how it can be influential in delivering important information to the public."

Partners that also participated in the project include; the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, the Monroe County Conservation District, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Monroe County Planning Commission.

Sponsors that funded the project were; East Stroudsburg University, Monroe County Commissioners, Monroe County Conservation District, Northampton Community College PPL Electric Utilities Corp., Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort and Friends of the Brodhead Greenway, which included donors; Stroud Township, Sharon and Vic Keen, and Wendy and Mark Lichy.

BWA and the Pocono Arts Council accepted the award on October 22, 2009 at the 19th Annual "Evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment" at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Want to contact us?

Phone: 570-839-1120 **Email:** brodheadwatershed@verizon.net **Web:** www.brodheadwatershed.org



Brodhead Watershed Association

Box 339
Henryville, PA 18332

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.