

# STREAM LINES

The Newsletter of the  
Brodhead Watershed Association



Published by and for BWA members

Summer 2007

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## *Monroe County 2006 Water Quality Study: Some Streams Are Being Degraded*

The County's 2006 Annual Water Quality Report was recently released, and it tells us that six streams in the watershed show declining water quality.

The mouth of the Brodhead, where it meets the Delaware, is the worst – and has been showing a downward trend since 2001. Water quality is also declining on Forest Hills Run downstream of Carlton Road, Marshalls Creek upstream of Route 209 near Jay Park Plaza, Paradise Creek upstream of Lower Swiftwater Road and upstream of the Route 191 tunnel, Sambo Creek upstream of its mouth near E. Stroudsburg High School, Pocono Creek below Sullivan Trail, and Scot Run above the Crossings.

(Details of the biological scores are in the table below.)

Most headwater streams, however, are still in good shape. Brodhead Creek below Canadensis and below Rt 191, Devils Hole Creek, Paradise Creek below Tank and Yankee creeks confluence, Swiftwater Creek above Rt 611, Indian Run above Fairview Ave and Pocono Creek at Rimrock Road all showed healthy macroinvertebrate populations. The exception is Forest Hills Run, which still suffers from an overload of treated wastewater from the Mt. Pocono sewage treatment plant (STP), complicated by run-off from Rt 611. Mt. Pocono's STP is meeting its permit limits (except for tempera-

ture). This has led DEP to question whether their "model" for setting limits is protective enough... a scary thought as we look at possible new large discharges coming on-line.

The study, conducted by the Monroe County Planning Commission and the Conservation District, includes water chemistry, habitat evaluation and analysis of macroinvertebrates – the stream "bugs" that tell the true tale of what's been happening to the health of a stream.

The 2007 study will take place in the first 2 weeks of August. Results will be available early next Spring.

For *Good News* about water quality see articles inside.

### **Biological Scores at trouble spots in the Brodhead watershed—higher score is better.**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Brodhead Creek at mouth	27	29	23/25		19	15
Forest Hills Run below Carlton Rd			17	15	21	16
Marshalls Creek above Rt 209	27	23	23	27	33	25
Paradise Creek above L. Swiftwater Rd			29	29	33	25
Paradise Creek above tunnel on Rt 191			31	33	35	27/25
Sambo Creek behind E. Stroudsburg HS				31	25	17
Pocono Creek below Sullivan Trail	29	33	23	21	31	19
Scot Run upstream of Crossings stores	29	31	27	27	23	17/23



A Festival of the Monroe County Watershed Alliance

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Monroe County Watershed Alliance (MCWA) provided an educational opportunity for sixth grade students of the Pocono Mountain School District through WaterWaze, a watershed festival. On behalf of the Monroe County Conservation District, I would like to thank various entities and individuals for their support and efforts which com-

binated to make this event a success.

First, the MCWA, a coalition of conservation organizations, watershed associations, municipal officials, and regulatory agencies, formed a festival planning committee and supplied volunteers for WaterWaze. The MCWA includes nonprofit organizations such as the Brodhead Watershed Association, the Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy, the North Pocono C.A.R.E., the Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association, and the Shawnee Preservation Society.

Funding for the event was supplied by the PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, while the Northampton Community College (NCC) provided a facility in which to hold the event. NCC pro-

fessor John Leiser and his biology students volunteered their time to WaterWaze. And, professionals from various organizations and agencies throughout the region shared their knowledge on various watershed topics as classes visited with these presenters.

WaterWaze provided students with knowledge of watersheds and wetlands through activities which would be difficult to perform in the classroom. We hope that this experience has left a lasting impression on these future decision makers. WaterWaze could not have happened without the partnership mentioned above.

Many thanks!

Trish Attardo *Monroe County Conservation District- Watershed Specialist*



## *Continuing Saga of the Invasive Plants IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?*

“The lower Pocono Creek is in trouble” reports Dr. Jeri Jewett-Smith and her team of interns who are mapping invasive plants along the stream. Jeri tells us that invasives blanket both banks of the stream, and silt fills the crevices between rocks on the bottom. Take heart, however, some sections, even downstream of the truck stop, and the Rt 611 sprawl, are still in pretty good shape. “There was even one stretch where we got no hits (no invasive plants) at all,” Jen

Reader, lead intern tells us.

The Team has walked the complete mainstem of the Pocono (except for those few properties where the landowner would not grant access) and most of the McMichael, with the help of Jim Hartzler, BWA member and manager for Pohoqualine Fish Club. Meanwhile, Dr. Shiziong Hu and his interns, are working in the upper Brodhead watershed. Dr. Hu’s project focuses on stream bank erosion hotspots, and is mapping invasive plant locations

as well to see if there’s a connection.

Most landowners contacted to get access to the stream banks have been supportive and interested, and many have asked the Team members to come back and tell them more about what invasive plants they found, and what can be done to control them. We’ll be posting maps of the areas surveyed and what’s been found when the study is complete, sometime in the fall.

## **Pocono Chamber of Commerce—Women in Business Committee Hosts the 2006 Save Our Planet Awards Presentation**

The April Women in Business Luncheon which was held at the Chateau Resort & Conference Center featured the 2006 Save Our Planet Awards.

Each year, the Environmental Committee acknowledges outstanding or innovative environmental contributions. This year’s award winners were:

**Mark Lichty Award:** Dean DeLong of Monroe County Waste Management Authority

**Individual:** Stanley Becker

**Volunteer Organization:** Brodhead Watershed Association Streamwatchers Program

**Travel & Tourism:** Elements Spa at Great Wolf Lodge

**Non-Profit:** Developmental Education Services  
Community Partners in Recycling

**Government:** Tobyhanna Army Depot

**Institution:** Stroudsburg School District

**Business:** Blossom Studios— Mountainhome



Amy Albert and Bob Stevens represent BWA

## Watershed Watch

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

### Applications for discharge of stormwater from construction activities

#### Mar 10

Summit Realty Advisors, LLC, Barrett Twp, discharge to Mill Creek

#### Mar 17

- M.I.B. Group, LLC, Pocono Twp, discharge to trib to Scot Run

- K. A. Schuchman, Smithfield Twp., discharge to Marshalls Creek

#### June 23

Price Township Development Corp., Price and Smithfield townships, Michael Creek

### Permits for discharge of stormwater from construction activities

#### Mar 10

Fairfield Resorts, Smithfield Twp, discharge to Marshalls Creek

#### Mar 24

Dunn Twigg Co., LLC, Stroud Twp, discharge to Pocono Creek

#### Apr 28

- Pocono EcoIndustrial Park, LLC, Coolbaugh Twp, discharge to Red Run

- Wisteria Commons Senior Housing and Oaks Senior Community, Barrett Twp, discharge to Cranberry Creek

#### May 26

Bestway of PA, Barrett Twp, discharge to Cranberry Creek

#### June 2

Sciota Properties, Hamilton Twp, discharge to McMichael Creek

### Application for new NPDES permit for wastewater discharge

#### Mar 10

Pocono Twp. Supervisors, Stroud Twp, 2 mgd discharge to Brodhead Creek

### Applications for renewal of NPDES

### permits for wastewater discharges

#### Apr 21

Stroudsburg Boro, 2.5 mgd discharge to McMichael Creek

#### Apr 28

Pleasant Valley Manor, Hamilton Twp, discharge to McMichael Creek

#### June 2

Mount Airy No1, LCC, Paradise Township, .22 mgd discharge to Forest Hills Run

### NPDES Permits issued for wastewater discharges

#### Mar 17

Patterson-Kelly Corp, E. Stroudsburg, discharge to Sambo Creek

#### Apr 7

Penn Estates Utilities, Stroud Twp, discharge to UNT to Brodhead Creek (Cranberry Run)

#### Apr 14

E. Stroudsburg Boro, Smithfield Twp, discharge to Sambo Creek

#### May 5

Monroe Career and Technical Institute, Pocono Twp, discharge to Pocono Creek

#### June 2

Cove Haven, Inc., dba Paradise Stream Resort, Paradise Twp, discharge to Paradise Creek

#### June 9

Daniel Bittenbender, Hamilton Twp, discharge to UNT of Lake Creek for single family residence. (This facility also received a WQM permit.)

#### June 16

Stroudsburg Boro, 2.5 mgd discharge to McMichael Creek

### Water Quality Management Applica-

### tion

#### May 5

Smithfield Twp, to construct a sanitary sewer force main along E. Brown Street into E. Stroudsburg

### Water Obstructions and Encroachments - permits

#### Mar 24

- Big Ridge Developers, permit to construct two road crossings and one utility crossing in tribs to Pond Creek, for Country Club of the Poconos, Middle Smithfield Twp

- Sanofi Pasteur, permit to construct a pedestrian bridge across Swiftwater Creek with utility lines and effluent pipes attached; aerial utility line, wastewater processing and effluent lines across EV wetlands; outfall diffuser and piping across wetlands.

#### Apr 14

Pocono Heights Property Owners Club, to construct a bridge across Marshalls Creek

#### May 5

Dept of Transportation, temporary and permanent encroachments in Marshalls Creek, Pond Creek and tributaries.

#### June 9

Bestway of PA, Barrett Twp, construct a road crossing of Cranberry Creek

### Permit issued for Public Water Supply

#### Mar 10

Pocono Manor Investors PT1, LP, Pocono and Tobyhanna townships, new well, rerate existing well and distribution system

### DRBC Project Approvals

#### May 10

Pocono Manor Investors, existing .14 mgd wastewater discharge to Swiftwater Creek

## **BWA Petitions PA DEP to Redesignate the Swiftwater Creek Watershed to Exceptional Value**

On June 30, 2007, the BWA filed a petition with the Environmental Quality Board, to redesignate the Upper Swiftwater Creek ( above Rt#611) and Indian Run from High Quality Coldwater Fishery (HQ—CWF) to Exceptional Value (EV).

The BWA was joined in its petition by the Tobyhanna Creek Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association, the Buck Hill Conservation Foundation The Swiftwater Preserve fishing club, and the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

All streams in Pennsylvania have a legal designation which dictates how the streams can be used. The water quality in a high quality stream can be degraded if a social or economic justification can be demonstrated. It is not permissible to degrade the water quality of a stream with a designation of EV. These regulations apply to both wastewater and stormwater discharges.

EV status does not stop development. It forces the developer to maintain the existing quality of a stream.

A decision by the Environmental Quality Board to redesignate the streams will provide greater protection to the water quality of this watershed.

Substantial data and many studies prove that the upper Swiftwater and the Indian Run qualify for EV status, which will be determined by the science

Now that the petition has been filed, public support or comments are welcomed and letters may be addressed to Letters should be addressed to:

Ms. Kathleen McGinty, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, PO Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063 and sent to the attention of Michele Tate who is handling the submission of our petition materials.

The Board of Directors of the Brodhead Watershed thank Trish Attardo, Don Baylor and Barbara Smith for writing the technical sections and for reviewing the final petition. Thank you, also, to Kietryn Zychal, who compiled the petition for the BWA, and Deb Brady at Paradise Township for creating the maps of the watershed submitted with the petition.



## **GOOD NEWS for the Brodhead Creek**

The Brodhead Creek from below Stokes Avenue bridge to its mouth at the Delaware it will now be protected as a "cold water fishery." The reclassification is based on data from the PA Fish & Boat Commission and recognizes what everyone who fishes the lower Brodhead knows: the Creek supports reproducing trout.

Protecting the stream for trout of all ages, not just for the trout stocked each year by the Fish Commission, means any discharges to the stream will have to take into account impacts on trout, including temperature impacts. Trout cannot survive at high temperatures. Macroinvertebrates, the favorite food of trout, are also extremely sensitive to temperature.

### ***Thank You, once again, to ...***

John Reily and Mike ( of Reily Computer) for the 'new' (recycled ) computer in the BWA office. New programs are now available and office efficiency has been greatly improved.

## **Can the Poconos Develop and Still Have Healthy Streams?**

**To get the answer, the Pocono Creek watershed, the area of land that collects and drains all of the rain or snow melt into the Pocono Creek, was chosen the testing ground for a study led by US EPA and the Delaware River Basin Commission.**

**Tax dollars are being put to work in order to help local residents make good decisions about how to grow sustainably, protecting both the environment and the economy which depends on the quality of the regional environment.**

**The study is measuring stream flows, testing groundwater levels and examining the effect of land uses on water resources. trying to learn how much we can take out of the ground, or the streams, and still have enough water left to support stream life You'll be hearing more about what the science tells us soon; and we'll be asking you what you think is important about the Poconos in general, and the Pocono Creek watershed in particular in the Spring of 2008. If you want to be part of that discussion, please call BWA at 839-1120 or the Monroe County Conservation District 629-3060.**

## New BWA Members !

Jim, Kathy, Jake & Molly Brunkard

Brian Coyne

William & Barbara Daskel

Patricia Kennedy & Michael Thomas

Jean Luedtke

Judith & Geoffrey Mehl

Krystyna & Howell Raines

Sean & Jodie Reilly

Michelle & Wayne Ross

Phillip Rush

Schnaitman's Flooring America

Kietryn Zychal

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### 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

Brodhead Watershed Association

Box 339

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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, Marshals, McMichael, Paradise, and Pocono creeks and their tributaries.*

Contributing to this issue: Trish Attardo, Carol Hillestad, Theresa Merli, Don Miller, Edie Stevens and John Styk



