



Time to wake up and smell the natural gas

WINTER 2012

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Membership:

- Adopt a Stream
- Brodhead Hunting and Fishing Association
- Paradise Falls Lutheran Association
- Brodhead Creek Regional Authority

Jeanette Peterson
John Smith

Who says there's no gas under the Brodhead watershed? Who says we've got nothing local to worry about from Marcellus Shale drilling? Who says the Marcellus is the only geologic formation with gas?

Who says local municipal officials won't face troubling issues from gas drilling elsewhere? And what says they can act even if there is a problem?

Poconos attorney and municipal officials will bring themselves up to speed on drilling issues on Friday, Feb. 10, from 11:30 to 1 p.m. at the Monroe County Bar Association office on Main Street in Stroudsburg. Mark Szybist, staff attorney with PennFuture, will update attendees on the powers and duties of Pennsylvania municipalities under Section 27 of the state Constitution. Details of his presentation will depend in part on what our Legislature has done to the Oil and Gas Act since January 1. Changes are expected to effect municipal powers; drilling interests are working hard to take decision-making power out of local hands.



"I will discuss development of oil and gas in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code, pre-emption of municipal powers under the pre-amendment Oil and Gas Act, and how our Constitution, establishing that the Commonwealth is the trustee of our natural resources, informs the debate," Szybist said.

The Poconos aren't exempt from the issue simply because Marcellus shale doesn't underlie the region.

"I'd question the commonly held attitude that there is no gas under the Brodhead watershed," Szybist said. "The Marcellus may be too thin to be productive under Monroe County, but there are other formations. As extraction technology continues to improve, and the price of gas rises (eventually it will rise, even though it's been declining in the past few years), there may be reason to explore those formations.

"Second, assuming that there is no gas under the watershed, the watershed is close enough to areas that do have gas that it could be a site of support operations. And pipelines could be put in the watershed to carry gas to markets in New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania. And invasive species carried to gas-producing areas by operations activities could migrate to the watershed.

"Third, the watershed is downwind of areas where the Marcellus is being developed, and could see increased air pollution because of the development.

"Fourth, the watershed may be close enough to Marcellus-producing areas that degradation of natural resources in those areas could have some effect on real estate values in the Watershed," Szybist said.

His presentation is sponsored jointly by the bar association and BWA. Lunch costs were defrayed by a donation from MCS, Inc of Williamstown, NJ, sponsors of products for erosion control and stormwater management.

The "lunch and learn" will be at the Monroe County Bar Center, 913 Main Street, Stroudsburg. Cost for non-bar association members is \$45.

For registration details: dburdge@monroebar.org.

- The issues committee recommends that BWA prepared a petition asking the state to designate Cranberry Creek in the Paradise Creek watershed as an "Exceptional Value Stream," as the science supports it. Don Miller, Don Baylor, and Pat Kennedy will work on the petition.
- The committee also discussed continuing problems in the lower Brodhead and recommended review of the 2012 Rock-Tenn discharge permit renewal. In addition, President Rob Sedwin agreed to call on Rock Tenn and establish a contact in hopes they will renew their Adopt-A-Stream Site membership. They were a charter BWA member.
- The discharge permits for the Mount Airy casino also expire in 2012. BWA will submit comments on that permit.
- The expanded Stroudsburg/BCRA plant will have a pulse discharge, which can cause pulsing temperature impacts. Factfinding will be done.
- The executive board voted in January to schedule a "visioning retreat" later this year to develop projects, plans and activities for coming years.
- The board also approved up to \$1,500 for a rain garden at Barrett Elementary. It will be a pilot project upon which future federal grant applications for similar conservation gardens elsewhere may be sought.

Office relocation

The move from our Mount Pocono office is complete. Our new office is at 425 Carlton Road, Mount Pocono, just off Route 940 a couple of miles east of the borough proper. The mailing address remains the same: PO Box 339, Henryville, PA, 18332.

Long term, the board is exploring the possibility of taking over a farmhouse site on Hickory Creek open space owned by Stroud Township, adjacent to the Glenwood Country Club. The key word here is "exploratory."

Check the Web site
for up-to-date new information!

www.brodheadwatershed.org

President's message

With the holidays behind us, and the winter months cool down our outdoor activities, it is a great time to take advantage of the natural environment around us. If, and hopefully when we get snow, take the time to make a trip to a favorite stream or waterway to see the beauty from a different perspective.

The winter is a great time of year to see the snow topped boulders and ice covered water with a small waterfall pouring through. There is nothing like a good cold hike followed up with a warm fire and hot beverage.

Our waters are enjoyable year round and the efforts of our members are instrumental in keeping them that way. Be sure to pass the BWA message along to friends and family in the area. We hope you enjoy the winter months and the new breath of life that the spring will offer.

Rob Sedwin

Recognition



Rob Sedwin, president of the Brodhead Watershed Association, congratulates Kenneth G. Zinis, deputy director of health, safety and environmental safety at sanofi pasteur in Swiftwater, for 15 years of stream stewardship with the BWA.



Paul Canevari, regional manager of PPL, electric utilities, with the organization's award for 15 years of stream stewardship.



Our new headquarters at 425 Carlton Road, Mount Pocono; the crew on moving day in November; Michael Flood, owner of our building, known as Paradise Hills Corporate Office Park. We are his guests, rent-free but with a payment of \$50 a month to help with building utilities, plus insurance coverage. Our organization now has an office on the ground floor and access to a kitchen and conference room on the first floor.



That's the way the phthalate leaches...

It is hard to argue the fact that waste management has become a large problem in the world, with landfills growing to enormous sizes and recycling rates remaining dismally low. The number of plastic bottles produced by the bottled water industry and subsequently discarded by consumers has only exacerbated this problem.

According to a 2001 report of the World Wide Fund for Nature, roughly 1.5 million tons of plastic are expended in the bottling of 89 **billion** liters of water each year.

Besides the sheer number of plastic bottles produced each year, the energy required to manufacture and transport these bottles to market se-

verely drains limited fossil fuels. Bottled water companies, due to their unregulated use of valuable resources and their production of billions of plastic bottles, put significant strain on the environment.

The authors of the WWF report suggested that water bottles be washed and reused in order to lessen their negative impact on the environment. Unfortunately, reusing plastic bottles further compromises the quality of the water, due to the fact that more and more phthalate leaches its way into the water as the bottle gets older.

The authors recommended that bottled water companies use local bottling facilities in order to lessen fuel expenditures for transportation needs. But local bottling further compromises water quality due to the reduced health standards for in-state bottled water production and consumption.

It seems there is no feasible solution to this problem. Bottled water severely strains the environment, but solutions degrade the quality of water in the bottles.

(Reprinted from www.factsaboutwater.org)

Grant will help BWA recruit and inform new demographics

The BWA is reaching out for members.

Board Secretary Patricia M. Kennedy reports that the Brodhead Watershed Association is seeking a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection mini-grant of \$3,000 for environmental education. Most of the money would go for transportation, an expense that board member Bob Labor identified as a prime issue for students and others seeking hands-on experience in both the watershed itself and for research.

Extracts from our abstract:

The object of "This stream is my stream" mentor program is to introduce a more diverse cohort to environmental stewardship and to improve that target audience's environmental literacy.

*... Members of the target audience will be recruited through invitation at local schools and colleges, press releases to local media, appearances on local radio and television, and posters at local libraries and grocery stores. **The hope is to reach residents from younger generations including, but not limited to families, and students from local schools and colleges.** Monroe County has experienced rapid population growth with many new residents from urban areas*

with little knowledge of the local watershed. Each member of the target audience will choose (or be assigned to) a specific stream within the watershed. That stream will become his/her stream (hence, "This stream is my stream"). Cohorts will be created for each stream.

BWA board members will act as mentors Cohort groups will be provided streamside opportunities to learn about their stream's ecology, topography, geography, fish, macro-invertebrate populations, plants. ... Members will be introduced to ways to investigate the "history" of their stream and its health on many levels, including searches in local history collections, map repositories, newspapers, public and university libraries, the county courthouse, local historical society collections, planning departments and commissions, state agencies and fishing club files.

Audience members will also be introduced the processes by which threats to stream health are identified and to the actions, including those in the political realm, by which streams can be protected and threats can be reduced.

We will find out in April if we are getting this grant.

Contact us: (570) 839-1120 brodheadwatershed@verizon.net 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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