

### Hancock, Kerzic, Foster join BWA board

On a night that celebrated the work of pioneering conservationist and former County Commissioner Nancy Shukaitis, the Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) also held its annual business meeting, which included the election of a new board of directors. The board of directors is responsible for ensuring that the BWA carries out its mission to protect and preserve the watershed's valuable water resources.



New board members Catherine Hancock, Duane Kerzic, and Ann Foster

Newly elected board members include Ann Foster, a medical professional and avid geocacher, Catherine Hancock, a retired business professional and member of the Friends of Cherry Valley; Duane Kursic, a professional engineer and member of Northeast Search and Rescue; and Dean Wehr, a senior project manager/engineer at Sanofi Pasteur and outdoor recreation enthusiast. Several existing members of the BWA's board were re-elected to new terms, Lori

Colgan, Pat Kennedy, Robert Larson, Doug Olmstead and Jeff Feick. In addition Theresa Merli has stepped down as the BWA's executive director and has been elected to the board of directors.

All of these individuals bring a wealth of perspectives and experiences to the BWA. To learn more about how you can become involved in assisting the BWA fulfill its mission call 570-839-1120 or visit the website: [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org).



BWA annual meeting guest speaker Carl Wilgus, executive director of the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, and outgoing BWA President Rob Sedwin.



Paintings by BWA board member Don Baylor will be on display at the Monroe County Conservation District gallery during November. Above: "Angler at Beat Creek," oil on canvasboard, Don Baylor.

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.



# Streamlines

## The Newsletter of the Brodhead Watershed Association

Fall 2013

### BWA honors Nancy Shukaitis

More than 170 people gathered on October 3 at Shawnee Inn on the banks of the Delaware River to celebrate the free-flowing river and to honor Nancy Shukaitis, the woman who led the fight to keep it that way. Here, John Donahue presents Nancy with the BWA Exceptional Value Award, a photo of the Delaware River by David Coulter.



Nancy's remarks included a short summary of the battle to defeat the Tocks Island Dam and left us with the following caution:

"I ... pray that the lessons we learned from Tocks will educate and better prepare all of us gathered here tonight for future challenges to come – and they surely will come. For the present, one of the great river valleys of America has been saved for the benefit of this generation and generations to come."

To read Nancy's full remarks, visit [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org)

### BWA see changes, mission stays the same

By John Smith  
President

It's fall and change is coming. It happens every year, so by now we should all be accustomed to the chill in preparation for the renewal. Change happens within the BWA too, but our mission has stayed the same for some twenty-five years... to protect the environment and water resources within the watershed. It was a grass roots initiative then and it remains so today.

The change within the BWA is in the leadership. Rob Sedwin led the organizational growth since 2011, and our membership increased to over four hundred households. The growth in membership speaks to the continued interest in maintaining the watershed's resources, and the growing visibility of the BWA

*'What's ahead? In a word...opportunity, the opportunity to voice concerns and contribute to the social and economic health of our region.'*

as an important player in the townships. Under Rob's leadership, the board hired our first full-time executive director, our own Theresa Merli, to help meet our operational needs. This was a learning process for us. In the end, Theresa herself concluded that the BWA's present need would better be met by an office manager. In this new year, Theresa and Rob will continue to serve us, but in new positions as co-chairs of our development committee, designing and implementing fund, friend, and partner raising to achieve new goals. Thank you, Theresa. Thank you, Rob.

The board will see many new faces, as Bill Watson, Paul Wilson, Chris Brooks, Ken Zinis and John Leiser end their terms, and newcomers Ann Foster, Catherine Hancock, Duane Kerzic and Dean Wehr find their niche on the board. Thank you all for your contributions to the organization. The organization is both deep and broad in the experience and knowledge of its members, and thankfully members continue to step forward to volunteer their services.

Our board mourns the loss of Chris Perry, an exemplary contributor. Please see President's Corner, Page 2



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# BWA's September kayak sojourn puts 30+ 'on the water'

More than thirty intrepid paddlers enjoyed a beautiful Saturday afternoon in September on McMichael Creek as they paddled and floated their kayaks more than four miles from private lands upstream from Stroud Township's Hickory Valley Park to a landing at Kovarick Park in Stroud Township. A few enthusiasts continued an additional mile downstream, circling LaBar Village, passing under Interstate 80, and the confluence of the Pocono Creek with the McMichael, to the final take-out point on the Greenway on the lawn of ESSA bank in Stroudsburg.

The day began with a continental breakfast and safety briefing at Glenbrook Golf Club's Cafe.

Paddlers were then transferred to a streamside property along Hickory Valley Road, where they launched their kayaks for the trip through Hamilton and Stroud townships.

A midway stop at the "Old Slaughterhouse" bend on Stroud Township's Glenbrook Golf Course property gave time for a box lunch with warm soups and fly casting and tying instructions by members of Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited, as well



A quick pose for the camera and then it was time to hit the water

as learning about the insects in the stream that trout feed on.

Naturalist Don Miller talked about stream ecology and Monroe County Open Space planning.

An enjoyable and memorable day was had by all. This is a unique way to experience these

very special and small streams in the Brodhead watershed. We'll be planning more trips next summer, please join us. Check our website at [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org) or call our office at 570-839-1120 to get on the "Paddlers' list."

## President's Corner, from Page 1

and friend to the organization. To honor her, the annual kayak sojourn has been renamed the Chris Perry Memorial Kayak Sojourn. Track well and happy paddling Chris.

What's ahead? In a word...opportunity, the opportunity to voice concerns and contribute to the social and economic health of our region. The BWA will continue to involve itself in issues affecting the quality of life in the watershed. Wise economic growth is important for the region. The BWA has always contributed through education to enhance public awareness of water issues. The BWA will remain a player, voicing its opinion in public forums, wherever water resource management plans require greater scrutiny and revision. We are all, in a sense, Streamwatch-

ers. It is when you take notice that the voice of the BWA rises to be heard. Our volunteer's vigilance for these many years should be celebrated. Let's tell our story broadly and make this year, our twenty-fifth anniversary year, a grand celebration of our successes. This is truly a year to celebrate.

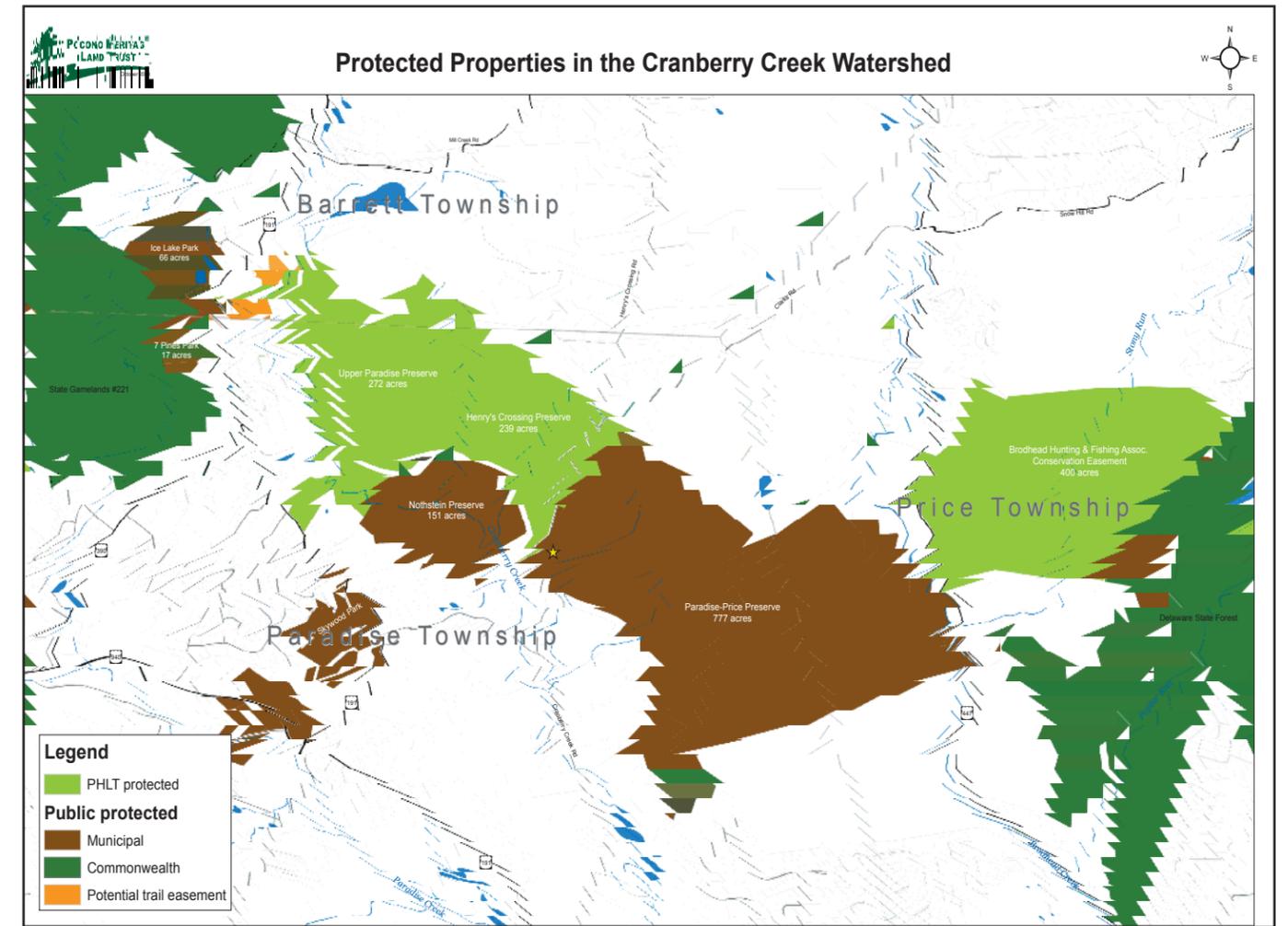
Thank you,  
John Smith



## New members

Frank Licata; Craig Todd; Dean Wehr; Paul & Karen Tetor; Cheryl Kepel; Susan & Richard Huffman; John Layton; Wilson P. Bohanak; Catherine Hancock; George & Linda Kitchen; Ingrid Thranov & William Hoover; Eileen E. Owens; Judy & Walter Nielsen; Jeffrey Heberley; Robert J. Heil, Jr; Middle Smithfield Township; Les Sharp

Visit [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org) to see how you can join, or call (570) 839-1120.



## Land Trust adds Henry's Crossing to key land corridor

The new Henry's Crossing Preserve is "only" 239 acres. But it is the key tract that completes a 1,300 acre swath of land that stretches from Price Township along the northern end of Paradise, with potential connection into Barrett Township.

According to Dawn Gorham, Executive Director of Pocono Heritage Land Trust, "Henry's Crossing Preserve links land preserved by Paradise and Price with recently acquired PHLT land, all in the Cranberry Creek subwatershed. We are also working on a trail easement that would extend the connection to Seven Pines Park and the Ice Lake Preserve, with access from there to State Gamelands."

The closing was on August 15, 2013, and a ribbon-cutting was held at the site on October 4. In addition

to Gorham and members of PHLT's board, the event was attended by State Representative Mario Scavello, County Commissioner Suzanne McCool, Paradise Supervisors Louise Troutman and Gary

**'We are also working on a trail easement that would extend the connection to Seven Pines Park and the Ice Lake Preserve, with access from there to State Gamelands.'**

Konrath, County Planning Commission head Christine Dettore, and Lorne Possinger, regional advisor with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and members of the public.

Funding for the project came from the Monroe County Open Space Program and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's Conservation Partnership Acquisition Grant from Keystone funds. The sellers were members of a Northampton County family who had intended developing it.

An existing fire road gives access to the property, which is forested with two un-named tributaries of Cranberry Creek. It is bordered on one side by the railroad, and two culverts under the tracks are made of hand-hewn stone and testify to the craftsmanship of railroad builders in the late 19th century. Signage and maps are in development.

For more information, contact Dawn Gorham at (570) 424-1514.