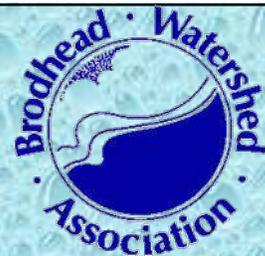


STREAM LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



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Fall 2008

*Where
Can you find
Water Dance
Now??*



(see page 2!)

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Members Elect Board—Plan for Coming Year

More than fifty members turned out for BWA's annual membership meeting on October 6.

Held this year at the relaxed atmosphere of the Monroe County Conservation District EE Center, the evening opened with a potluck spread organized by BWA Board member Joe Bedrick and BWA's new office administrator, Michael Thomas.

Dr. Shawn Hu, accompanied by students Brent Hartle and Mike Niemoczynski, provided exhibits and explained the results of ongoing BWA-supported research documenting stream bank stability conditions and the extent of invasive species spread.

Association Vice-president, Dr. Frank Herting, conducted the business meeting, offering special thanks to

outgoing president Dr. Jeri Jewett-Smith for her outstanding leadership, and to the many streamwatchers for their continuing devoted service.

After the election of new board members (see "Board Members Elected," p. 2), County Commissioner (and former BWA President) Theresa Merli described some of the unexpected challenges she encountered during her first year in office. County Commissioner Suzanne Mc Cool was also in attendance.

Monroe County Watershed Specialist, Trish Attardo, presented a colorful slide show that included not only a general update on watersheds but also a scenic trip through portions of our own Brodhead watershed. Many of the images selected by Attardo focused on areas of

the Brodhead subject to BWA scrutiny.

Board member and ESU Professor, Dr. Pat Kennedy, acted as moderator for a "Visioning exercise." Kennedy asked members to suggest ideas for BWA focus in the coming year. The suggestions were written on large sheets. Members could then "vote" (with 3 colored dots) for the suggestions they thought most important. High on the list were more information on invasive species and investigating a "Water Trail" on the lower Brodhead.

Board member Amy Albert, who has tested water on the Sambo Creek for at least 15 years, provided a post-meeting demonstration of water testing procedures using the Center's water as her test source (It tested clean).

Welcome Michael....

Michael Thomas began as the new BWA office administrator September 8th. He has worked as an historic preservation specialist and managed his own custom homebuilding firm. Since 1992 he has been employed as a consultant with Leathers and Associates of Ithaca, NY in the construction of volunteer built community playgrounds, which has afforded him the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the United States and overseas. "My goal is to use my experience with volunteers by organizing, scheduling, and working alongside our members and other community groups on water quality projects throughout the region."



WHERE ARE THE TROUT NOW?

Did you get to see the five foot trout sculptures that were on display throughout the Brodhead watershed this summer? If not, you can still find some in public places, courtesy of the people who bought them at the end of summer auction.

After spending the summer in locations from the Barrett-Paradise Friendly library to Delaware Water Gap, the trout were gathered together for one final time at the Sherman Theatre on Main Street in Stroudsburg on Saturday, August 30. The culmination of the party was the "Catch and Keep" auction, during which the crowd of about 200 people bid on the trout.

Four of the fifteen can be found in Barrett Township. The Barrett-Paradise library is the lucky host for two Trout, *Stream of Consciousness* by artist Carol Hillestad, and *Book Trout* by Barbara Bush. Across the road you can find *Bathing Beauty*, by East Stroudsburg University art students, at Benji LaBar's Hair Salon. Now renamed, "Bubbles" is helping advertise "green" hair dressing products and techniques. *Like a Fish Out of Water* by Robert Harris, which was

on display at the Paradise Brook Trout hatchery all summer, will now be on view at Camp Canadensis.

Closer to Stroudsburg, *Speedy Trout*, by Marelle Walmsley will be on permanent display at the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority, on Stokes Avenue. *Water Dance* designed by, MingLi Goldston & Jacob Molinaro



Water Dance can be found at Wilkins Real Estate office at 304 Park Avenue in Stroudsburg.

and executed by J.M. Hill/Resica Elementary Students, is at Wilkins Real Estate office at 304 Park Avenue. Northampton Community College in Tannersville will keep *Sine Aqua Sileo* by student artist, Maia Rossiello.

Near Bartonsville, the Monroe County Conservation District, will host *Mademoiselle Trout Recycle* by Pocono Mt. West High School Art Class. MCCD friends Carol and Jeff Desind purchased both *Mademoiselle* and *Copper Warrior* by artist Anthony Guarino and have loaned *Mademoiselle* to MCCD for display.

If you travel to Harrisburg, be sure to visit *Native Brookie*, by Jennifer Frantz, purchased by the PA Fish and Boat Commission, with contributions from employees and Commissioners, for display at their headquarters on Elmerton Avenue. The Trout Trail project's idea was to raise awareness about how the different parts of our environment all interact to keep air, water, and land safe and pure. The trout was chosen as a symbol, because it is like the "canary in the mine for coalminers," according to Theresa Merli, who headed the project for Brodhead Watershed Association. Healthy populations of breeding trout show that our streams are in good shape. And healthy streams mean healthy drinking water.

Many thanks to all the proud Trout owners who will make them available in public places to continue to bring the clean water message to us all.

New Board Members Elected

Elected to the BWA board at the Annual Membership Meeting on Oct 6 are Gary Bloss, Judy Mehl, Rob Sedwin and Doug Swift.

Gary Bloss returns to the Board after a several year hiatus. Gary helped developed the Brodhead Watershed and the Cherry Creek River Conservation plans for BWA. He is now Executive Director of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

Judy Mehl is a free lance gardening writer and formerly was the Publications Director at East Stroudsburg University. She, and her husband Geoff helped with the BWA's Native Plant Sale last spring.

Rob Sedwin is employed by SDC Solutions of Manchester, NH as the Southeast US Regional Business Development Manager. Sedwin is an avid snowboarder, hiker and general outdoorsman.

Dug Swift is an avid fisherman and member of

the Brodhead Forest and Stream Association. He is a physician practicing anesthesiology in Philadelphia

Reelected to serve an additional 3 year term are: -- Amy Albert, Don Baylor, Anne Fetherman, Nancy Hopping, Theresa Merli, Dick Shackleton, Darryl Speicher, and Edie Stevens

Members Brainstorm BWA Direction

Led by Pat Kennedy at the October 6 membership meeting, attendees enthusiastically offered suggestions for BWA activities in the coming year. and then "voted" on their top priorities.

Topping the list were more education in invasive plants and investigating a Water Trail on the lower Brodhead. A Water Trail, a trail for boaters — in this case kayakers — must first be designated by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Local sponsors then provide information which the PFBC includes in a map of the Trail to help users. If you'd like to more about either activity, call Mike at 839-1120.

Rain Gardens Reign



Just a hole in the ground now, the Barrett-Paradise Library Rain Garden will bloom come Spring. Plants for the Library rain garden are being provided by BWA, thanks to a grant from an anonymous friend.

The new rain garden at Barrett Township Library illustrates a new and valuable resource in storm water management: hold the runoff for just a little while and beautify the landscape while you're about it. In the case of the library, it's also a great educational resource.

Increasingly popular as part of responsible commercial planning, "bioretention basins," as they are properly called, can also cool urban landscapes and even more importantly capture "first flush" chemicals that accumulate in parking lots and use plant biology to prevent the toxins from reaching rivers and streams.

But for the average homeowner, a rain garden offers even more than a landscape focal point. Judy and Geoff Mehl used one to solve roof runoff that affected both the house crawl space and the septic field, as well as enhance their groundwater supply.

Most rain gardens, like the library feature, are found in sunny locations and ideal for a wide range of plants that relish the lifestyle common around marshes, lakes and swamps. The Mehl's rain garden, however, is

in a woodland, so plants selected were appropriate for a moist thicket and, with time, should grow into a feature that hides its practical purpose.

According to Geoff, "That's a bit of a shame. Once the heavy storms of this past summer roared in, the new garden was endless entertainment - we literally stood and watched it fill and drain, amazed at what a hole in the ground can do."



The Mehl's new rain garden is a simple shallow bowl about 24 inches deep and 15 feet in diameter. The water enters at lower right into a thin blanket of shredded leaves. Difficult to see are six young shrubs and a small tree plus several ferns, just planted, but destined to become a thicket and a screen

For More

Rain Garden Information

Visit:

www.raingardennetwork.com/

"Sewage Fungus" Covers Rocks at Brodhead Creek Mouth



"Sewage fungus" is again coating the rocks at the mouth of the Brodhead Creek. This slimy, ugly growth coats rocks and lowers the oxygen between the rocks where the bugs that fish eat live. Pieces of it break off and float down the Delaware, making canoeists think they are seeing raw sewage. "Although it is not "Rock Snot" or Didymo, it can have similar impacts on aquatic insects and fish.

Experts think it is a bacterium (*Sphaerotilus*) that is prevalent below pulp mill discharges and grows well when nutrients are present. Though its not known to have a human health impact, fishermen, canoeists, and anyone who thinks beauty should be part of the watershed experience, are concerned -- and working to find the cause and get it corrected.

Welcome
New BWA Members !

Edgar Cullman, Jr.

William Geddes

Rob and Sally Sedwin

Managing Troublesome Plants

Weed & Invasive Plant ID

and Management

Thursday, November 6, 2008

8:30 am - 3:45 pm

Luzerne County Emergency Management Agency
185 Water Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA

More info at BWA office, 839-1120

**Encourage a Friend to Join
Today!!!**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Circle One:

Family \$30 Individual \$15 Senior \$10

Student \$5 Contributor \$100

Adopt-A-Stream Site \$250

Return, with your check 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

Henryville, PA 18332

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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.

