

# STREAM LINES



The Newsletter of the  
Brodhead Watershed Association

July 2008

## The trout are out!



### Want to bid on a trout?

Come to the Sherman Theatre on August 30.



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Fifteen amazing, human-sized trout are now making their artistic and environmental statement in the wilds of the Brodhead Watershed – from the new Barrett Paradise Library to the County Courthouse to Delaware Water Gap.

Each trout has been embellished by a different artist or group of artists. School children, college students, professional and amateur artists have all had their ways with the 6-foot-tall fiberglass fish.

Now they are laid out on a trail from one end of the Brodhead Watershed to the other for you to visit and enjoy. Each trout tells part of the tale of the watershed – and what we need to do to ensure that the beautiful land and streams we love will continue to survive.

Go to [www.trouttrail.org](http://www.trouttrail.org) for a trail map and more information, or pick up a map at any of the trout locations.

### Contest, Contest, Contest

Kids 7 to 12 years old have a chance to win free tickets to local water parks and other great prizes. It's easy, fun, and the whole family can do it – and even learn a little something about our natural world in the process.



To see how artist Carol Hillstad achieved this final product, visit: [www.brodheadwatershed.org/Hillestad.htm](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org/Hillestad.htm)

To enter the contest, go to [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org) to find out which of the 15 trout is the “Trout of the Week.” Then download the entry form, find the Trout of the Week, fill out the form and send it in. Prizes awarded every month!

Pictures of the trout and details about the children's contest are at [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org). Also see [www.trouttrails.org](http://www.trouttrails.org) for lots of interesting information.

Local geocachers have caught on – a geocache is associated with each of the trout. Whether or not you are part of the geocaching craze, start making the rounds. The trout will be out only until August 24. Some trout in “sensitive” locations are brought in at night, and some are at local businesses – please respect those company's business hours!

### Where will the trout go at the end of August?

First stop will be StroudFest in Stroudsburg on August 30. Four stages of live music and dance will be the background for all fifteen trout, reunited again!

The trout will be leaping all along Main Street – locate them all and win a prize at the end of the day!

The Trout Party will be at the Sherman Theater starting in the early evening with free desserts and music.

### Welcome new members ...

Mark Edwards  
Sharon Michaels  
Michael Niemoczynski  
Lucy Small  
Karen Trebitz  
Nathaniel Yetter

## ***BWA lawsuit to be settled with regional wastewater management agreement***

A lawsuit filed by the BWA in November 2007 is about to be settled with a new cooperative regional agreement for wastewater management which, although not perfect, furthers the BWA's efforts to safeguard the Pocono area's highly prized streams and rivers while recognizing regional needs to protect local jobs and respond to current and future local growth and development.

BWA challenged a permit granted to Pocono Township Supervisors by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The permit authorized the discharge of 2 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater from a treatment plant Pocono Township intended to build along the Pocono Creek in Bartonsville.

In addition to the new plant, the Pocono plan called for a six mile pipe that would discharge water into a section of the Brodhead Creek designated as a cold-water and migratory fishery, and central to the Brodhead Creek Greenway, the Levee Loop Trail system, and its adjoining regional parks – among the most heavily used recreation areas in Monroe County.

The core of the agreement is a commitment from Pocono Township to relinquish plans to build its own plant.

Instead, Pocono would join with Stroud and Stroudsburg as part of the **Brodhead Creek Regional Authority** to expand and upgrade the wastewater facility owned by Stroud and Stroudsburg.

The upgrade would include technological advances anticipated to lead to a discharge of treated water that would be cleaner than the current system.

Brian Glass, an environmental attorney associated with Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) who has been representing BWA, Stroud Township and the boroughs of Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg in opposing Pocono Township's wastewater plan, described the agreement as "a happy resolution of a very difficult problem."

Theresa Merli, past BWA president and current Monroe County Commissioner, noted during negotiations that this agreement "calls on all parties to show trust and to share a regional vision for the environment and the economy."



The agreement expressly recognizes BWA's right and intention "to continue to advocate for decentralized wastewater management, and to submit data relevant to water use determinations."

The parties agreed not to oppose Sanofi Pasteur's interim efforts to obtain approval for a increase its discharge to Swiftwater Creek -- a discharge that would be reduced when the collection and treatment services outlined in the primary agreement were on line.

Dr. Jerilyn Jewett-Smith, president of BWA, Frank Herting (Vice President), Edie Stevens (Treasurer), Theresa Merli (Director), Don Baylor (Director), as well as Ann Featherman and Dr. Patricia Kennedy participated in various phases of the negotiations that led to the agreement.

When signed by all the parties, a copy of the full agreement will available at [www.pennfuture.org](http://www.pennfuture.org)

### **BWA is looking for an office assistant**

Flexible 16-20 hours per week in Mt. Pocono office maintaining and organizing files, correspondence, membership, contacts and events, taking minutes at meetings, updating website and newsletter. We require: Typing and computer skills including Excel and Word and ability to commit to a minimum of one year. We prefer an individual with demonstrated interest in environmental issues. ....To request additional information or apply send an E-mail with questions, resume and cover letter and subject line "office assistant"to:

## *BWA wants **your** story for ...BWA Briefs*

**BWA** would like to hear and publish stories about members' efforts to protect our watershed. Here's a chance to alert members to areas of concern and models for action. We'll want to hear the usual details -- who, what, where and when. Tell us about any actions you took and how responsible parties behaved. If you have a story, send it via E-mail to [brodheadwatershed@verizon.net](mailto:brodheadwatershed@verizon.net) with the subject line: "my story" or by mail to the BWA office at **Box 339, Henryville, PA 18332**.

### *Dog alerts owner to diesel spill*

In May, Blanche, a dog whose name has been changed to maintain confidentiality, went for a swim in the storm water retention basin near the bus parking lot at PM West high school. The retention basin attracts blue heron, deer, frogs, geese and ducks. Blanche came out stinking of diesel fuel.

Blanche's owner, who also asked for confidentiality, reported to DEP that there appeared to be diesel fuel in the basin.

"About a week later," writes Blanche's owner, "I got a call from someone at DEP. They asked me to go back to the storm water basin and find out if it stilled smelled. It did.

I told them it wasn't as strong as earlier in the week, but that the rocks on the bottom of the pond (which were exposed because the water level was low) were stained black or gray."

"Then, about a month later, a DEP spokesperson called and reported that DEP had been to the school twice. It appears there was an unreported spill during a diesel delivery to an above ground tank, perhaps as early as February, but still visible in the storm water basin in May.

Although school officials were reportedly cooperating with the investigation, the DEP spokesperson said both the school district and the fuel company were supposed to report spills to regulated tanks within 24 hours."

"So, good for the DEP," said Blanche's owner. "They do respond to complaints."

### *DEP responds to researcher's*

ESU student and new BWA member, Karen Trebitz, has been part of an ongoing study assessing the impact of additional discharges on Forest Hills Run. Her first samples were collected before Mt. Airy reopened and subsequent samples after. She called DEP in late April when her post-opening samples repeatedly showed an increase in phosphates and turbidity and a marked decrease in vulnerable macroinvertebrates. DEP investigators not only asked for her data but also asked that she take them to the collection sites where DEP collected a 2 day stream sample. She has not yet heard the results of the DEP tests.

### *BWA supported research moving along*

Dr. Shixiong Hu, a BWA member on the faculty at ESU, reports that two studies of conditions in the watershed are proceeding toward completion. Both studies -- one in Marshall's Creek and the other along sections of the McMichaels' -- are focused on documenting invasive species and bank stability conditions. The McMichaels study has reached the half-way mark. Problems with permitting in the national forest and obtaining land owner permissions have slowed up the Marshall's Creek study.

Hu expects to provide BWA members with a status update and recommendations at the annual meeting in October.

#### **What you can do to help!**

**Report spills.** Spills and other emergencies in the Northeast Region should be reported immediately to DEP by telephone to 570-826-2511 or by calling 1-800-541-2050. Our Northeast Service Representative is Maribeth Nestor (570) 820-4854; 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790. Another Toll-Free Citizen Complaint Line is also provided: 1-866-255-5158 (State-wide) Press # 2 to reach Northeast.

Spills can also be reported on the DEP website: [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us). DEP does not report the names of complainers to the offenders.

#### **Become a streamwatcher.**

Information on BWA's Streamwatcher program can be found on the BWA's website: [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org).

**Look for "What's New" on the BWA website.** You'll find watershed maps, info and news, volunteer and political action opportunities, results of BWA research efforts, and links to related sites.

**Join our E-mail alert list.** Send BWA an E-mail note with a request to be added to the list.

#### **Encourage a friend to join.**

Membership applications can be found on the BWA website.

**Follow the Watershed Watch.** This section of the website -- which has previously appeared in *Stream Lines* -- reports on applications made and permits granted for activities impacting the watershed.

### Summer Watershed Calendar

**July 1 - August 24 - Trout Trails and Tales Locations and Trailblazers' Competition.** For a map of the trout locations or for kids 7-12 to find out which of the 15 is the "Trout of the Week," go to [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org).

**July 23 - Delaware River Cleanup Day.** Volunteers are needed for this year's clean up of a 40-mile stretch of the river from River Beach, north of Milford, to Kittatinny Point. Participants will paddle canoes and pick up trash in one of five sections -- each 6 to 10 miles long. The Day begins at 8 a.m. and should end by around 4:30 p.m. Volunteers should check-in at Dingmans Ferry Access (PA Route 739) or Smithfield Beach (on River Road). Shuttle transportation, trash bags, canoes, paddles and life jackets will be provided. The park's fees will be waived for the day. Rain or shine.

**August 1- 14 - The Monroe County Water Quality Study.** The team is gearing up for the 2008 sampling season and is looking for extra hands. To participate, contact Amy Lewis at the Monroe County Planning Commission, 517-3100.

**August 19-20 - The Monroe County Conservation District Delaware River Overnight Canoe Trip.** A few spots left for the annual 2-day family event floating from Dingman's Ferry to Smithfield Beach. For details/reservations phone 570-629-3061.

**August 30 -- The Trout Auction at 7 pm at the Sherman Theatre -- a part of Stroudfest 2008** ([www.stroudfest.com](http://www.stroudfest.com)).

**October 6 (tentative date) -- BWA Annual Meeting at a site to be announced. Watch the website!**

**No deadline - Michael Reisenwitz -- aka "Dr. Waters" -- the Source Water Protection educator for the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority, is looking for pictures in the Brodhead Watershed for a photo tour he is developing. To send pictures (with locations labeled) and to see the site's progress, visit the Dr. Waters website: [www.drwaters.org](http://www.drwaters.org).**

**To suggest items for the Fall Calendar due out in November send your event to [brodheadwatershed@verizon.net](mailto:brodheadwatershed@verizon.net)**



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*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, Mc Michael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries.*