

Nancy Shukaitis:

The woman who saved the Delaware



On Thursday, October 3, we will gather at the Shawnee Inn along the banks of the Delaware to celebrate the free-flowing river and the woman who kept it that way.

BWA's Annual Membership Celebration honors Nancy Shukaitis, the woman who took on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and fought tenaciously, and successfully, to protect the river she loved.

Save the date! Details coming.

Outreach grants

BWA has received two grants to continue community outreach. One pays for additional stream name signs and "Entering the Brodhead Watershed" signs. The second pays for fish habitat improvement in McMichael Creek at the county soccer fields, partnering with Trout Unlimited, and a stream buffer restoration project, partnering with Northampton Community College and the Keystone Athletic Association.

Moon over the Brodhead

Join local naturalist and Brodhead Watershed Native Darryl Speicher on July 20 for a spectacular night hike on the Mount Wismer Nature Preserve in Barrett Township to view the Brodhead from above under the light of the full moon.

From our vantage point on the edge of the Pocono Plateau participants will be able to gaze across the entire Brodhead Watershed from the top of the Middle Branch all the way to the Delaware Water Gap.

We will start our hike at 7 p.m. and walk through the twilight, watch from the overlook as the moon and stars rise.

From our perch above the watershed we'll talk about the streams, the landmarks and the stars over head.

The walk is moderately strenuous but don't let this deter you, the view is worth it! Mount Wismer is located on Route 447 approximately 5 miles north of the village of Canadensis, just before the Pike County line.

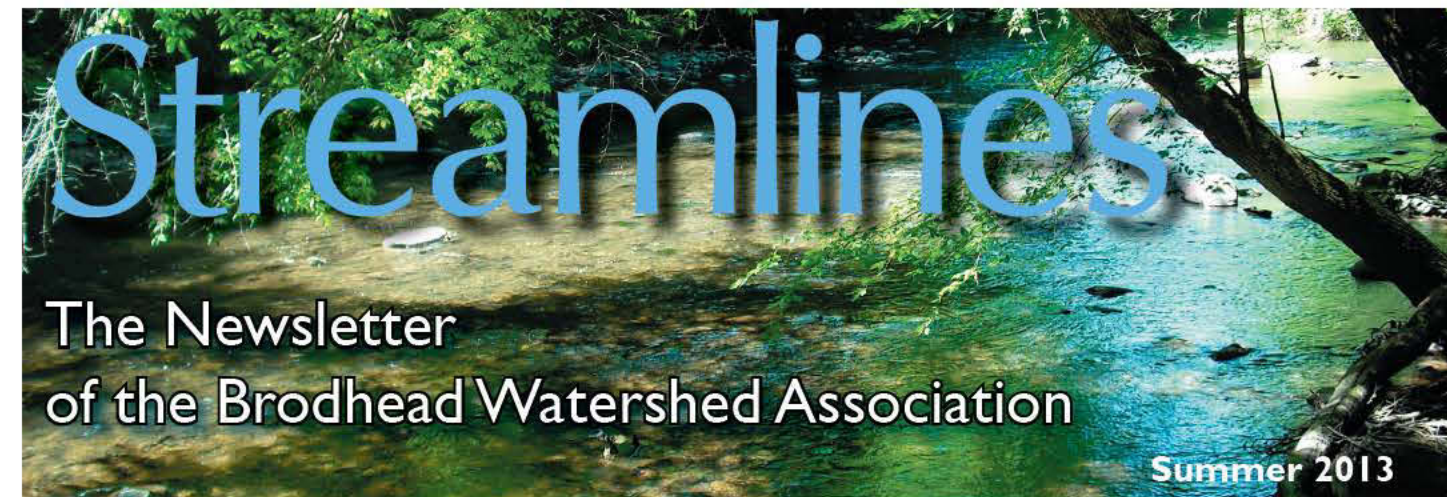
For more information, call 570 839-1120 or email brodheadwatershed@gmail.com.

For more information on all out events and workshops, please visit our Web site: www.brodheadwatershed.org.



New members! Welcome!

Colleen Haley
Annette & Douglas Atkinson
Michael Dwyer
Suzanne Werfelman
Kimberly & Daniel Larkin
Ann Foster
Ginny Fields
Bea Kasebien
Laurie Ward
Carissa Longo
Ronald Melfy
Sandra Hance
Katharine Bressler
Marjorie Chamberlin
Jonathan Frace
Gloria Rubino
Patricia Davies
Peter Gonze
Debbie Mattie
David Bershtein



The Newsletter of the Brodhead Watershed Association

Summer 2013

Ramble through Paradise ...

Get to know the watershed of the Paradise Creek on Sunday, August 11, from 1 - 4 p.m. Walks, talks, and presentations by experienced naturalists fill the day, with an After Ramble party from 4 - 5 p.m. at a historic old building, the home of the Swiftwater Preserve.

Formed in 1896, the Swiftwater Preserve Fishing Club was the second such club to be established after the railroads opened the Poconos to tourism.

At beauty spots throughout the watershed, you'll learn about the area's regional parks, the history of Fieldstone Farm, the creation of the Brodhead Falls Preserve, the fish and wildlife habitat of the Nothstein Preserve. You can also visit the public Woodland Trail trailhead at Mount Airy and get maps of other trails open to the public at the resort.

First stop for registration, map, and information is Skywood Park. Louise Troutman, a Paradise Supervisor, and board member of both Pocono Area Recreation Commission and Pocono Heritage Land Trust, will answer questions about regional parks. Naturalist Darryl Speicher will also be on hand.

The Ramble will include Fieldstone Farm at Devils Hole Road, a recent Open Space acquisition. Don Miller, Denis Giffel and Jeff Heberley will talk about the natural history – and the human history – of this beautiful old stone farmhouse and the important land surrounding it. This part of the Ramble includes an easy 15-minute walk.

At the 777-acre Brodhead Falls Preserve, Dawn Gorham will highlight how Monroe County's Open Space program has helped preserve land that protects drinking water. You are welcome to take a 15-minute walk to a split glacial boulder at the Preserve with Sam Piel, who has been mapping trails on the property for BWA.

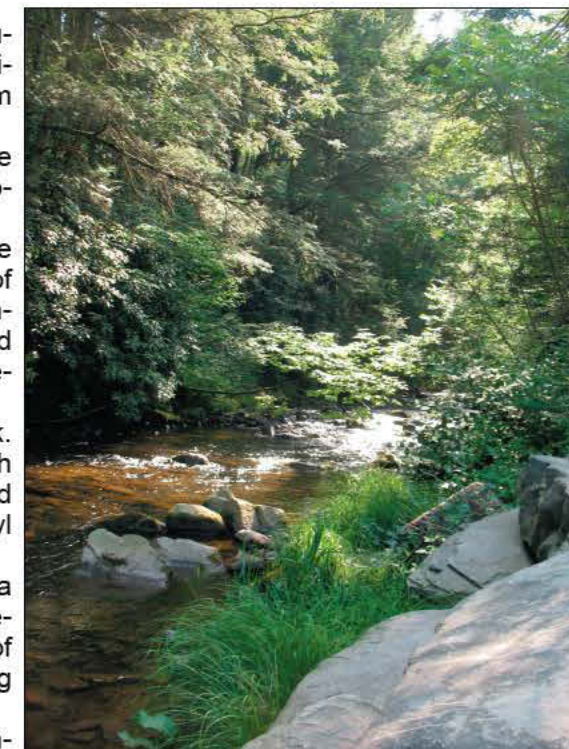
As part of the resort's development, Paradise Township required Mount Airy to set aside about 500 acres of Open Space and to provide trails open to the public. The Woodland Trail is the first to be completed. Natural Ellen Davis and Mount Airy representative and plant specialist Will Eldredge will be your guides.

Don Baylor and Jim Hartzler will demonstrate electro-fishing at the Nothstein Cranberry Preserve. With luck, you may see a "tiger trout," a naturally-occurring cross between a female brown trout and a male brook trout. The fish exhibits gorgeous markings found in neither parent. Tiger trout are rare in the wild, appearing only in areas where brook and brown trout share spawning grounds.

The After Ramble is a great time to mingle with the presenters and naturalists, enjoy delicious food and wine and the immense rural beauty of the Swiftwater area.

The Ramble is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. There is a \$2 discount for pre-registration, which can be done at our Web site, www.brodheadwatershed.org. Children under 12 may attend free.

For more information, call 570 839-1120 or email brodheadwatershed@gmail.com. The Ramble is held drizzle or shine -- see you there!



Paradise Creek, glowing in summer sunlight



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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, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries.

Coming up: McMichael Creek Sojourn No. 2



This year's BWA Sojourn on McMichael Creek will be Saturday, Sept. 28 (rain date Sunday Sept. 29)

Registration is limited to 40. Enrollment will close Sept. 1.

The final trip route depends on stream conditions. The proposed route will begin at Hickory Valley and finish at 8th Street in Stroudsburg. It will include breakfast refreshment at site registration (Glenbrook Country Club) and a halfway stop for lunch, with several presentations along the way.

For more information, including cost, please call 570 839-1120 or email brodheadwatershed@gmail.com.

Gardening in the Dog Days of A Pocono Summer

- Let Nature Be Your Guide

By Robin Petras-Anglemyer

The "dog days of summer" will soon be upon us. July and August in Northeast Pennsylvania are generally hot and dry. A low maintenance garden that can see itself through the seasons considers the possibility of low moisture and high temperatures during the summer months.

Many new Pocono homeowners are working with soils devoid of organic matter and tree cover, the topsoil and vegetation long since stripped from their new home construction site. The rocky, poor soils of the Poconos are another gardening consideration, with many Pocono residents claiming that their land seems to "grow rocks". These site situations make the hot, dry and sunny garden a viable alternative for most in our region.

When considering plant choices for the home garden it is best to "let nature be your guide". The secret to successful gardening is selecting the proper plant for the specific site conditions that you have. Fortunately, there are many native trees, shrubs and perennials that thrive in hot, dry and sunny situations. So, where do we look for inspiration and help in making these plant choices? We often see these situations on dry sunny roadsides, in old abandoned fields and on rocky mountain tops, hillsides and slopes. These sites support plant material that is both beautiful and resilient, requiring little supplemental moisture or maintenance.

The following native plant choices are among those recommended for hot, dry, sunny gardens:

Trees: Chestnut Oak, American Chestnut, Shagbark Hickory, Eastern Redbud, Downy Serviceberry, Virginia Red Cedar

Shrubs: Sweet Fern, Smooth Sumac, Staghorn Sumac, Fragrant Sumac, Blackhaw Viburnum, Arrowwood Viburnum, Bush Cinquefoil, Pasture Rose, Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle, Lowbush Blueberry

Perennials: Butterfly Weed, Smooth Blue Aster, Lance leaved Coreopsis, Narrow-leaved Coneflower, Purple Coneflower, Early Sunflower, Northern Blazing



Roadside flowers give a good indication what grows well in the area

Star, Wild Bergamot, Prairie Sundrops, Foxglove, Beardtongue, Black-eyed Susan, Wild Petunia, Fire Pink, Blue-eyed Grass, Old Field Goldenrod, Showy Goldenrod

Grasses: Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Side Oats Gramma, Indian Grass

These plants can be adapted to formal gardens, surrounding a more traditional home, as well as naturalistic plantings that seem to blend into the native landscape. To install, simply remove any existing ground cover and plant your selected plant material any time the soil is workable. Plants may require slight supplemental care the first year, until established.

A thin mulch layer of shredded bark or wood chips can help conserve moisture and cut down on weed growth. Water can be harvested in rain barrels, connected to downspouts, and saved for a sunny day when watering is absolutely necessary.

Remember, with these dry site selections, less is more!



The plant sale featured a huge variety of species

2013 plant sale summary

The Brodhead Watershed Association's 10th Anniversary Native Plant Sale/Festival was a success despite having a rainy day. This year's sale featured Native Edible and Medicinal Plants and we held 5 workshops at local libraries and a hike by Don Miller leading up to the festival centered on this theme. The annual sale was expanded into a festival for the first time and we had vendors, music by the Lost Ramblers, a children's activity tent, hikes and Nathaniel Whitmore as a guest speaker.

Thank you to all the sponsors (Cook's Corner, Cranberry Creek Farms, MudWorks, Dutch Hill Farms, Microbac, Strauser Nature's Helpers, Shawnee Inn, Steele's Hardware, Weis Markets, NCC), vendors, workshop presenters, committee members and volunteers who helped make the event a success. We look forward to working with you again.

Next year's sale is in the planning stages and we are looking for volunteers who would like to help. Please contact the BWA if you want to be part of the 2014 event.

Whew!

Whew! I don't know about you, but I am having a tough time keeping up with all that the members of BWA and our many partners have been involved with over the last few months... and the near future sees more of the same. From community events, enhanced stream monitoring programs and stream clean-ups as well as working locally to promote Smart Growth strategies and solutions, BWA volunteers have been involved in it all!

Much of the increased level of activity is due to the increasing strength and increasing number of partnerships BWA has developed over its 24 years. BWA partners with so many organizations I won't try to name them all for fear that I will accidentally omit one, but I can tell you that I quickly came up with a list of close to 40 groups that we have worked with... so far... this year. This does not include our 35 Adopt-a-Stream-Site sponsors and special event sponsors who offer financial support for our activities.

After you've had a chance to read this newsletter, please take a few minutes and go on line (www.brodheadwatershed.org) to learn more about what YOUR Brodhead Watershed Association is doing to fulfill its mission "... to protect the environment and water quality within the watershed..."

You will be as impressed as I continue to be!

Theresa Merli, Executive Director



It takes a neighborhood - to clean up a creek. Here's the grungy Lake Creek Crew, after pulling more than 70 tires, and a full dumpster of assorted trash out of the creek. Sound like fun? Join us for the next job. Call 839-1120.

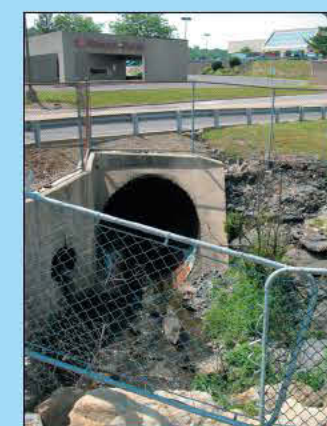


The United States Geological Survey has been keeping stream flow records on Brodhead Creek for 55 years. The stream flow station is near Analomink, upstream from Paradise Creek. The lowest recorded stream flow was 19 cubic feet per second, in 1972. The highest, 1,320 cubic feet per second, came as a result of Hurricane Agnes in 1972. Agnes dumped as much as 18 inches of rain in two days in some areas. The storm destroyed 68,000 homes and 3,000 businesses in Pennsylvania and left 220,000 people homeless.

Maintaining natural buffers along streams helps protect water quality and reduces flood damage.

Local H2Ology

Last edition's local water question: Do you know what stream is buried beneath the Stroud Mall? Answer: The stream buried beneath the Stroud Mall is Flagler Run. Some BWA members remember when Flagler Run had a native trout population, before the mall was built.



Another local water question: Do you know what Paradise Creek was called before it was re-named? We'll have the answer in the next newsletter.