During the last 30 years of protecting the waters of the Brodhead watershed, BWA has weathered many storms. None, though, like those challenges we all faced this past year. 2020 stands as a reminder of the resiliency of this organization and as an example of the continued and unwavering commitment to our mission of promoting clean and abundant water. Against the odds, the board, staff, and members of BWA have accomplished a great deal in new and innovative ways.

It is only through the support of our partners, members, and our community that we can remain resilient through these difficult times and continue the important work of protecting and improving water resources in the Brodhead and Cherry Creek watersheds. We experienced even more public support this year than in years past. This speaks volumes about the businesses, government, and residents of Monroe County’s commitment to protecting clean water.

**TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**
BWA REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2020

Unwavering in our work for clean water

GET OUTDOORS POCONOS
Through a partnership with Pocono Mountains Visitor Bureau, thousands of people have been able to attend virtual hikes with outreach specialist Carol Hillestad throughout our watershed since April. These hikes allow people to learn about new hiking opportunities and provided them with information to prepare them to explore these places. Online, BWA offered new ideas in outings, such as two scavenger hunts, birding with Darryl Speicher and a “turtle talk.” BWA also posted two hiking books, free to download with maps, photos and more. In a year that saw a marked uptick in outdoor usage, these opportunities were well received and much needed.

GREENING MOUNTAINHOME
Work continued in 2020 to further protect Mill Creek with funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Scouts and community volunteers logged 209 hours helping to complete a stormwater infiltration project in Mountainhome. As part of an Eagle Scout project, volunteers replaced an impervious asphalt walkway (above) with pervious pavers to allow for rainwater infiltration.

In addition to this project, a stormwater infiltration trench was installed with the assistance of a Monroe County Conservation District engineer and local contractors. This trench will allow water runoff from Mountainhome United Methodist Church’s parking lot to slowly infiltrate into the soil instead of running off quickly to local streams.

Driving through Mountainhome, you may not notice these examples of simple green stormwater infrastructure, but you may have noticed the beautifully painted rain barrels collecting water at local businesses. Local artists painted rain barrels that have been installed at local Barrett Township businesses, helping to catch runoff and allow it to be used in nearby gardens.

Residents were encouraged to install their own rain barrels, and MCCD and BWA board member Darryl Speicher partnered to provide a virtual webinar that taught participants how to install and decorate a rain barrel on their property.

WATERSHED WATCHDOGS
BWA volunteers have deployed another mayfly data logger (below) in the Brodhead watershed that is delivering data to Stroud Water Research Center, along with a swarm of other data loggers throughout the state. You can monitor this data, too, on the MonitorMyWatershed website.

Several of these dedicated volunteers have been working to measure another parameter – conductivity – and are using that new data to look for potential pollutants throughout our watershed. A team of partner organizations, experts and Streamwatchers will meet throughout 2021 to narrow in on the negative impacts on Paradise Creek by headwater streams Forest Hills Run and Yankee Run with Growing Greener funding that BWA received at the end of 2020, from the Department of Environmental Protection.

EDUCATION ONLINE
In a year that proved the need to stay connected to each other virtually, BWA fortuitously launched a new website early in the year that saw more than 35,000 page views (with the Get Outdoors Poconos pages garnering the most hits). Our social media presence continues to grow on an average of 410 people seeing our Facebook posts daily. While working remotely, staff devised creative ways to involve members and the public virtually. 2020 may have been a virtual year, but the connections BWA made through available media avenues were very much tangible.

Our treasured annual events – the Native Plant Sale, the Ramble – also moved online in 2020, reaching a wider and more diverse audience who learned a few things about the importance of native plants and local preservation efforts. Attendees of the online Members & Friends Celebration were treated to a keynote address from Cindy Dunn of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

WORKING WITH MUNICIPALITIES
BWA’s William Penn Foundation funding continues to support local municipalities as they further their MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) programs. BWA partnered with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and American Rivers to offer a training, “Safeguarding Clean Water in Monroe County” in 2020.

This three-part webinar series provided Monroe County municipalities with information on stormwater, green infrastructure, and MS4.
Thank you
to all of our supporters in 2020

= Member of BWA’s Perennial Club, making automatic monthly donations. For information, go to brodheadwatershed.org/perennial-club/
= 2020 Environmental Partner. For information, go to brodheadwatershed.org/environmental-partnership/

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* Also donated to Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.
Thanks to all of you ...

... streams in the Brodhead and Cherry Creek watersheds of northeastern Pennsylvania are rated “high quality” and “exceptional value” coldwater streams.

We appreciate your support in a difficult year!

**Grants**

- Berkheimer Foundation
- Clif Bar Family Foundation
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Weiler Family Foundation
- The William Penn Foundation

**Memorial and special donations**

- From the Vander Sterre Family, $200 in memory of Richard Shackleton
- From Elizabeth Caprioli, $25 in memory of Karen Boyle
- From Allison Heinsohn, $200 in memory of Craig Heinsohn

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A team of more than 70 Streamwatchers continues to be the eyes and ears of our local watersheds. For 30 years, this dedicated group of volunteers has collected data that is being utilized by partner organizations to make better informed management decisions. BWA and the Monroe County community are extremely thankful to this small group of volunteers for their service. It is no small feat to be the watchdog for 563 miles of streams, but they do it with dedication and perseverance.

Three volunteer Streamwatchers have logged 473 hours monitoring our water quality in 2020. Thank you!

**Cherry Creek**
- Gale Adair
- Linda & Tim Beers
- Elizabeth Lampight

**Paradise Creek**
- John Bragg
- Bruce Belt
- Kathy & Rich Leis

**Creek Family**
- Erin & Michael Delatto
- Mike & Mary Lou DeStefano
- Ann Fetherman*
- Lisa & Garrett Gerlich

**Pocono Creek**
- Candace Eichs
- Ann Hallman

**Green Family**
- Liz & Gary Lewis

**Lower Brodhead**
- Rich & Mary Ellen Cramer
- Rich Creek
- Ann Fetherman*
- Maryline Detrick*

**Upper Brodhead/Barrett**
- Robert Broker
- Betty Fetherman*
- Ernest Hesas

**Marshalls Creek**
- Melissa Benzinger McGlynn
- Pam Kemecsy
- Wendy Lichty*

**Conductivity & Chloride Team**
- Todd Burns
- Mary Ellen & Rich Cramer

**McMichael Creek**
- Ken & Bernadette Ayre
- Emma Barrett

**Pocono Creek**
- Jim Wallingford
- Mary Ellen & Rich Cramer
- Rich Creek
- Dan Lee

**McMichael Creek**
- Don Klein
- Nathaniel Lees

**Conductivity & Chloride Team**
- Bill Seigart
- Mary Ellen & Rich Cramer
- Rich Creek
- Dan Lee
- Nathaniel Lees

*Team Leaders