



# Streamlines



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2020

## BWA welcomes new leader

*Kelly Gallo recently moved from Utah to join BWA as its new executive director. BWA President Craig Todd joked, "I know, you're all wondering why a watershed association would hire a desert dweller as an executive director. As you read Kelly's bio, you'll agree that she's the perfect fit for one of the most active watershed associations in Pennsylvania."*

**K**elly Gallo grew up on a Christmas tree farm in Orangeville, Pa., and has lived in Utah for the past 16 years. She returns to the Poconos with longtime experience as a conservation outreach professional connecting people of all ages to natural resources.

"Like many committed to the Brodhead Watershed Association, my life has been carved by creeks and rivers," Gallo said. "My childhood was spent playing in Fishing Creek, turning over rocks to look for bugs and crayfish. This led to a career of introducing people of all ages to macroinvertebrates, water quality, and watersheds as well

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*Kelly Gallo with her beloved dogs, River and Mousse.*

### Getting to know Kelly

**WHERE SHE LIVES IN THE AREA:** In a van down by the river! Not necessarily, but I am searching for the perfect place to live in my RV.

**VOLUNTEERISM:** I have been lucky enough to hold professional roles in areas where my environmental passion and interest lies, so most of my volunteerism after entering my career have focused on animals. I like to volunteer and contribute to animal shelters and I have fostered dogs of all ages.

**HOBBIES:** Travel, gardening, diving, mountain biking, hiking, snowboarding, whitewater sports, hunting and fishing

**WHAT SHE MOST ANTICIPATES ABOUT WORKING WITH BWA:** It is evident by BWA's success that there is a wealth of knowledge and

contribution by amazing volunteers, board members, partners, and staff. I am most excited about working with this dedicated team.

**WHAT SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE BWA DO IN THE FUTURE:** To continue to connect more people to the Brodhead Watershed so they too will want to further protect this local treasure.

**FAVORITE MEMORY OF HER TIME IN THE POCONOS:** After living in a cold desert in Utah for the past 16 years, I am excited to return to the Poconos and its plethora of water resources. I have many fond memories of great times with friends rafting and kayaking on the Lehigh River and exploring the streams of Hickory Run State Park.

**FAVORITE PLACE IN THE POCONOS:** The rivers and streams of the Poconos have traditionally been my favorite hiking destinations. I am excited to return to explore the headwaters with my Tenkara fly fishing rod.



*Darryl Speicher*

### Speicher joins BWA board

Darryl Speicher recently joined BWA's board of directors for a three-year term.

Darryl is a native of the Poconos. He is a graduate of Pocono Mountain High School and holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Bridgewater University. From 1984 to 1998, he worked for the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Audubon Society. In 1998, he took off with his wife, Jackie, and their sons, Jordan and

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# GALLO

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as a lifelong commitment to facilitating connections with the natural world.”

Most recently, Gallo was an environmental health scientist at Summit County Health Department, Park City, Utah.

Previous positions she held in Utah include coordinator of public programs at Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City; environmental education consultant, Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Salt Lake City; STEM educator and curriculum coordinator at Alianza Academy, West Valley; and environmental education specialist at Soldier Hollow Charter School, Midway. She was also a snowboard instructor and activities guide at Park City Mountain Resort, Park City.

While previously living in Pennsylvania, Gallo was an environmental education specialist for the Bureau of State Parks at Hickory Run State Park, White Haven.

She graduated in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, and took graduate-level coursework in

zoology, conservation, and education at Miami University, Utah State University, and University of Montana.

“It is evident by BWA's success that there is a wealth of knowledge and contribution by amazing volunteers, board members, partners, and staff. I am most excited about working with this dedicated team,” Gallo said.

When not at work, Gallo likes to travel, garden, mountain bike, hike, snowboard, hunt and fish. She can be found reading about sustainable agriculture or taking courses in integrated pest management.

“After living in a cold desert in Utah for the past 16 years, I am excited to return to the Poconos and its plethora of water resources,” she said. “I have many fond memories of great times with friends rafting and kayaking on the Lehigh River and exploring the streams of Hickory Run State Park. The rivers and streams of the Poconos have traditionally been my favorite hiking destinations.”

She and her husband, Clark, are in the process of moving their household from Utah to the Poconos. They have two dogs, River and Mousse, who often accompany them on their outdoor adventures.

# SPEICHER

From Page 1

Jacob, on a two-year adventure across the continent.

In 2000, he was hired as the watershed specialist by Monroe County Conservation District, and after five years became a member of the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center staff. In 2017, Darryl accepted the science teacher position at Evergreen Community Charter School in Cresco.

He holds a federal Master Bird Bander permit and has been studying the birds of the Poconos. Jackie and Darryl founded Pocono Avian Research Center in 2000 and are proud of the work they have done in the region over the last 20 years.

## OTHER CHANGES ON THE BOARD

Seven members of the board retired at the annual Members & Friends Celebration, held online Sept. 25. BWA thanks them for their dedication

**GARY BLOSS** has served several terms on the BWA board, and also developed the Brodhead Watershed and Cherry Creek Conservation Plans.

**RICHARD CRAMER** has served one-term on the board and prefers to be active with BWA activities and projects.

**FRAN FERRARI** is past president and very helpful when financial advice is needed. She has moved to New Hampshire to be near her grandchildren.

**JOHN LAYTON** has served one term on the board and has been a valuable member of the Governance Committee.

**DOUG LEIES** has served several terms and has been involved with the plant sale and other hands-on projects.

**DOUG SWIFT, M.D.**, is president of the Brodhead Forest and Stream Club and has served as a liaison to fishing clubs. He is involved with Pocono Heritage Land Trust and fundraising for Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

**KATHY UHLER** is director of the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and the heart behind that valuable organization. The center hosted the BWA at the Cherry Valley Ramble last year.

## INVASIVE OF THE MONTH

# Tree-of-heaven? Or elsewhere?

*This feature focuses on invasive plants that can choke out native plants. Keep these out of your garden, and try to eradicate them in the wild. Your local flora and fauna will thank you!*

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) first came to the United States in the 1700s. Like many noxious plants that become invasive, it was intentionally introduced. Starting as an urban street tree around Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C., it is now classified as a “noxious weed,” and has invaded agricultural and rural areas, including right here in Barrett, Paradise and surrounding areas.

Tree-of-heaven is the preferred host tree for spotted lanternfly, a destructive pest that has recently invaded our area. Local gardeners have spotted them — so removing tree-of-heaven will help control spotted lanternfly.



Tree-of-heaven grows incredibly fast and can grow to 80 to 100 feet tall and up to 6 feet in diameter. Biochemicals in its leaves, roots and bark can prevent other plants from taking root. And the female trees can produce more than 300,000 seeds annually!

*For more information about this invasive and how to eradicate it, see [brodheadwatershed.org/invasive-species-management-plan/](https://brodheadwatershed.org/invasive-species-management-plan/)*

ANNUAL APPEAL

# Please don't make us beg ...



**T**oward the end of each year, BWA sends out its "annual appeal" – a mailed plea for funds to fill budget holes and help us complete our projects in protecting the Brodhead watershed.

**Anyone who makes a donation now will be spared from our annual appeal mailing list.** It will save time, money and paper – and you can make your tax-deductible donation now, before the holiday season begins.

Year after year, you have responded, and the annual appeal continues to be the final push BWA needs. Your donations support Streamwatch monitoring, protect 312 square

miles of watershed, get people outside and loving the outdoors with Get Outdoors Poconos events, spread ecologically responsible native plants, distribute rain barrels and educate people on how to use them, and more.

We achieve all this thanks to our dedicated corps of volunteers. But even with their help and hours of unpaid, donated work, we still need to raise \$30,000 every year to fulfill our mission.

We count on your response to help cover these costs. But how about if this year we skip the expensive and time-consuming mailing? Please don't make us beg!

## This year, your donation can be 100% deductible!

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides new incentives for donors to contribute to their favorite charities this year.

There is now a \$300 above-the-line (\$600 for couples!) charitable income tax deduction. If you make a donation in 2020, and don't itemize on your 2020 taxes, then you can give \$300 to charity and get a full \$300 tax break in addition to the standard deduction. That means your donation is 100% deductible!

**Please cut out and fill out this form and return it with your donation by Nov. 20. Thank you!**



**Yes! For my children, grandchildren, and generations to come, I support BWA's work for clean, healthy water.**

Enclosed is my gift of  \$25  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your check with this form to:**  
BWA  
PO Box 339  
Henryville, PA  
18332

You can still benefit even if you do itemize. The CARES Act allows for cash contributions to qualified charities to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for 2020. There are also benefits for making a tax-free transfer from an IRA to a charity. Please check with your financial advisor regarding these policies.

Your tax-deductible gift is an investment in pure, safe drinking water for you, your children and grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

# A season of virtual hikes to experience

The COVID-19 emergency preempted our planned summer of Get Outdoors Poconos hike events. Instead, BWA offered virtual hikes – armchair adventures via video.

If you haven't seen our collection yet, go to [brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos/](http://brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos/) and look for the virtual hikes listed below. You can also find them at BWA's YouTube channel (search for Brodhead Watershed to find all of our videos).

And then, if you can, get out to hike the trail yourself, remembering to keep at least 6 feet away from other hikers.

- Virtual birding at Camp William Penn
- Indian Ladder Falls at Skytop (part of our annual Ramble)
- Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge scavenger hunt
- Ice Lake scavenger hunt
- Targa Falls hike from Browns Hill Preserve
- Cresco Heights

# Welcome, new BWA members!

Leslie Abbott of Canadensis; Ellen Foos of Princeton, N.J.; Loretta & Manny Butera of Yardley; Brian Kukla of East Stroudsburg; Christine Murray of Bethlehem; Ernest & Linda Sims of Wayne; Barbara Roberts of Ridgewood, N.J.; Cherylyn Rushton Bullock of Canadensis; Veronica Litras-Meehan of East Stroudsburg; John Weidman of Philadelphia; Susan Deluca of Cresco; Eloise Jones Raymond of Mount Bethel; Tamre Joyce of Stroudsburg; Jane Barthold of East Stroudsburg; Jaime MacDonough of East Stroudsburg; Sherry Ferguson of Kunkletown; Rob & Maureen Poorman of Stroudsburg; Eric & Eileen Helin of Milford; Jillian DePete-McMahon of Stroudsburg; Brenda Butz of Stroudsburg; Julie Wynne of Canadensis; Teri & David Gaglione of Stroudsburg; Lou & Pat Powlette of Stroudsburg. **A special welcome** to our new Environmental Partner, Bushkill Falls.

# Pledge to defend Our Pocono Waters

Now more than ever, we need to defend the pristine waterways of the Pocono Mountains region. Our communities rely on them. Our small businesses thrive on them. It's paramount that we protect them, now and into the future. We need



your support and action to ensure clean streams and economic development continue to coexist.

To pledge to defend Our Pocono Waters, go to [ourpoconowaters.wordpress.com/](http://ourpoconowaters.wordpress.com/)

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.

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