



Streamlines



QUARANTINE EDITION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2020

For cleaner, greener gardens

Five ways to plant more responsibly in the Poconos

Before you plant that butterfly bush, put down the trowel and consider what this plant could do to the Poconos.

A butterfly bush, while beautiful, is an invasive that produces more than 100,000 seeds. Those thousands spread wildly via the wind, and one bush can eventually overcome the natural balance in multiple areas.



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BWA'S ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE

is planned for June 5-6 at Pocono Township Fire Co.'s building on Route 611 in Tannersville. We hope this event can be held and the COVID-19 quarantine is safely over by that time. Stay tuned! See our "Quarantine Calendar" on page 4 for more about BWA events.

GREENING MOUNTAINHOME



Darryl Speicher, right, gets assistance from Jim of Camels Hump while unloading the barrels for the Barrels Around Barrett program.

Rolling out the barrels for Barrett

In one facet of the Greening Mountainhome program, rain barrels will be installed at locations throughout the area. With the help of volunteer artists, Todd Schwartz and Boy Scout Troop 89, painted rain barrels will beautify their locations as well as catch roof runoff to be used in a rain garden.

Rain barrels will be installed in early summer at locations chosen by these Greening Mountainhome sponsors:

Fisher & Fisher Law Offices; Joseph Dilger, DDS; ESSA Bank & Trust; NBT Bank; Blake Martin Financial; Donaghy Insurance; Steele's Hardware; Capri Pizza; Mick Motors; Woodfield Manor; Frogtown Chophouse; Buck Hill Falls Company; PourHouse; Basso; Rotary of the Pocono Mountains; Barrett Township Historical Society; Hilfiger Restoration; Callie's Candy Kitchen; Daily Bread; Barn Door Antiques; Mickey Miller; Peter Maier; and Natalie Berdoe.

Webinar: Learn how to garden for clean water

April showers bring May flowers, and on May 2, Brodhead Watershed Association will host a webinar on how to keep your water clean and the garden growing all summer long.

The online class, called Gardening for Clean Water, will begin at 9 a.m. with local Master Gardener Amy Romanelli-Girardi.

"What we put in our garden affects more than just our garden," Romanelli-Girardi said.

Learn how your choice of plants can directly and indirectly contribute to water quality, how home landscapes impact the entire area drained by Brodhead Creek, and which native plants work for yourself, wildlife, and everyone's drinking water.

Amy Romanelli-Girardi, a resident of Barrett Township for 20 years, has worked for a local garden center/nursery, tending

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Oh, the responsibility of being a gardener. You also have to think about water pollution, drought and soil conservation.

It's a lot to consider for someone who just wanted to plant some pretty flowers, but with these five tips, you can be assured you're making Mother Nature proud.

1. INSTALL RAIN BARRELS

Maintenance: Low

Cost: \$100 - \$500

In one summer with average rain, more than 600 gallons of water can run over your roof, through the gutters and down the spouts, only to be wasted.

To put this stormwater to use, divert downspouts to a rain barrel. These barrels store the water for release when the ground is not already saturated, in strategic places such as your lawn or garden.

Barrels range from \$20 for a do-it-yourself kit to more than \$200. Most hold 45 to 55 gallons.

Install the barrel on a flat, level surface, raised off the ground to increase gravity flow. (Ensure it's sturdy; a full barrel can weigh 400+ pounds.) Direct the overflow hose into a garden or lawn at least 4 feet from a building's foundation.

2. ESTABLISH A RAIN GARDEN

Maintenance: Biyearly

Cost: Can range up to \$500+

Rain gardens are strategically placed plantings designed to intercept polluted stormwater runoff so that it can be absorbed into the ground. Rain gardens are depressions – any shape or size – in the land and populated with low-maintenance plants.

To create the shallow bowl-like garden, existing dirt is mixed or replaced with more permeable soil – typically, a mix of sand, topsoil and compost that allows for better water absorption. Stormwater drains into the area, creating a haven for the plants there while preserving nearby waterbodies from the pollutants in the runoff.

3. USE NATIVE PLANTS

Maintenance: Low to average

Cost: Under \$100

Using plants that are already adapted to the Pocono area's climate and soil means less watering will be necessary. Native plants typically grow deeper roots than exotic plants do, allowing for better water absorption.

Native plants attract the area wildlife, especially birds and butterflies, which need those plant species for food and shelter. Birds look for the bugs attracted by those plants, and butterflies rely on specific natives to be larval hosts.

Most importantly, native plants will not spread too quickly or too far, as invasives might. Invasives can crowd out the plants meant to be there.

4. MAINTAIN A STORMWATER-FRIENDLY GARDEN

Maintenance: Low

Cost: Under \$100

A stormwater-friendly garden uses organic compost as fertilizer and restricts the use of chemicals. This helps maintain natural nutrient levels in nearby streams.

Organic fertilizer alternatives include compost or manure. These fertilizers should be applied directly before planting the vegetables to prevent runoff.

Incorrectly used or unnecessary pesticides can infiltrate into groundwater, contaminate drinking supplies, and severely harm downstream ecosystems. There are many non-chemical alternatives for controlling pests, and consultants at garden nurseries can help you decide which is best. Gardeners should choose pesticides based on the bugs present, not an all-inclusive chemical.

5. CREATE A NATIVE MEADOW

Maintenance: Low

Cost: Under \$100

How would you like to mow only once a year? A native meadow – a place of native grasses and flowers without any woody-stemmed plants – provides many advantages over a lawn. Annual mowing saves time and money, and also reduces emissions, gas, and energy usage.

A healthy meadow is made up of 30% to 70% native grasses. More to consider:

Soil type: Pick plants that will thrive in your soil type whether it is dry, medium or wet. **Bloom times:** Pick plants that bloom at different times so your meadow is always colorful. **Varied height and color:** Diversified plants will be aesthetically pleasing and attract a greater variety of wildlife.

HAVE YOU SEEN BWA'S REDESIGNED WEBSITE?

Visit the new, improved brodheadwatershed.org. It's easier to use with updated styling and navigation, organizing all our programs and projects for you. You'll also find a more modern, comprehensive events calendar. Check it out and let us know what you think!



SPEAK FOR THE TREES

Did you know you can get e-delivery of this quarterly newsletter? You would be notified via email when the latest edition is posted on our website. Help us save paper and postage: Sign up for e-delivery by emailing info@brodheadwatershed.org.

Algae in Ice Lake



Ice Lake, like many Pocono lakes, suffered an extensive algae bloom last summer, making the lake unsightly and possibly unhealthy. To combat the formation of algae this summer, the Barrett Township Environmental Advisory Council has proposed treating the lake with barley straw, using the procedure recommended by PSU Cooperative Extension. Get the details here: <https://extension.psu.edu/barley-straw-for-algae-control>

Ice Lake is in the Ice Lake Natural Area, along Route 390 near Cresco. It's a great place for hike while you're practicing "social distancing."



FROM THE
DIRECTOR

Bob
Heil

Calm through troubled waters

As BWA's executive director, I regularly contemplate potential threats to our water. Despite a master's degree in biology, I never contemplated the threat we are facing as a nation to our public health. These are unprecedented times, and the issue changes constantly.

BWA staffers are working from home, which presents some challenges, but we are doing our best to maintain essential functions, stay connected with you through communications and, most importantly, maintain our focus on clean and abundant water for all. This time is allowing staff to thoroughly plan amazing programs for when the pandemic is over.

I now spend a lot more time thinking about YOU – our members, our volunteers, our supporters, our board and our staff and the community at large. I want you all to be well, follow recommended guidelines and remain safe.

I am certain that better times are ahead, and I look forward to that day when we can share a hike, belatedly celebrate Earth Day, or all jump in a creek together, pretending to be snorkeling with the kids. If you have a question or concerns, please reach us by email at info@brodheadwatershed.org, and stay safe.

INVASIVE OF THE MONTH

Garlic mustard

This new 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!

Garlic mustard originated in Europe and was introduced to the United States for herbal and medicinal purposes. It was first recorded in the United States in 1868 in Long Island, N.Y. By 1991, garlic mustard had invaded 28 midwestern and northeastern states. Today, it can be found throughout Pennsylvania.

Garlic mustard aggressively out-competes native species in the understory of forests and woodlands. The overwintering



rosettes of this plant resume growth in early spring when many native forest wildflowers are also active. As a result, garlic mustard competes with native forest floor wildflowers for sunlight at a critical time before the trees leaf out.

For more information about this invasive and how to eradicate it, see brodheadwatershed.org/invasive-species-management-plan/

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to the stock of trees, shrubs, and perennials. She particularly enjoyed helping customers make selections that matched their preferences with their site conditions.

The webinar is free, but registration is required by noon on Friday, May 1. To register, email info@brodheadwatershed.org or phone 570-839-1120. Instructions for signing in for the webinar will be

sent to registrants. Note that dates and times are subject to change. People who register will be notified of any changes, and changes will be posted on the BWA website at brodheadwatershed.org/greening-mountainhome.

COMING UP

Gardening for Clean Water is one in a series of Go Green at Home workshops and part of BWA's Greening Mountainhome project. Future workshops will include: July 25, rain barrels and how to install them; Sept. 12, rain gardens tour.

QUARANTINE CALENDAR

The COVID-19 emergency called for changes in some of our planned events.

Streamwatch training: Our annual session for new Streamwatch volunteers had to be postponed from March. Keep an eye out on our social media and website for a new date. Those who have already registered will be notified directly.

Get Outdoors Poconos: Our hike to Wolf Rocks in March was canceled, perhaps to be rescheduled for later in 2020. Our hike to Cresco Heights on April 19 has turned into a "virtual hike" – an online video adventure for armchair hikers. It will be posted at brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos in April. Watch for it on our website and monthly e-newsletter! We still have a hike to Targa Falls scheduled for May 16, but whether or not that event can happen will have to be determined as the date approaches.

The Monroe County Earth Day celebration, which was planned for April 25, was a calendar casualty. We'll have to try again in 2021.

The Creek 5K, a race to benefit BWA's home, Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve, has been canceled.

BWA board and committee meetings have been held online via Zoom since the shutdown, and will continue that way for the foreseeable future.

The annual Native Plant Sale, planned for June 5-6, is also tentative. Committee members are discussing if it should be held, canceled or converted to a drive-through event. Stay tuned!

Welcome, new BWA members!

Donna Cooper of East Stroudsburg; Brenda Ensley of East Stroudsburg; Jen & Chris Frie of Pocono Summit; William Johnson of Narberth; Abigail Jones of Stroudsburg; Chris Karlson of Stroudsburg; Beth Kraus of East Stroudsburg; Dee & William Kreiter of Scotrun; Anne Marlene Lesh of East Stroudsburg; Gregory Lewis of Washington, D.C.; Joan Lippi of Blakeslee; Jacquie Ludka of East Stroudsburg; Joe & Donna Memoli of East Stroudsburg; Warren & Pamela Miller of Cresco; Nathan Oiler of East Stroudsburg; Olde Mill Run Property Owners Association of Stroudsburg; Jenny Rourke of East Stroudsburg; Leslie Sloan of Stroudsburg; Sonia White of Canadensis.

A special welcome to our new Environmental Partner, Buck Hill Falls Water Company. Thank you!

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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