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# NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association



OCTOBER 2012

SKYTOP – The Brodhead Watershed Association celebrated 23 years of protecting the watershed and its highest membership ever at its annual dinner recently at Skytop Lodge. The organization also had an unprecedented 127 attendees at the dinner.

The organization is growing, with 72 new memberships this year, bringing the total to 413.

Edie Stevens, one of the group’s founding members, said the meeting finished up an “exciting” year.

“Our move to donated office space at Michael Flood’s Paradise Corporate Center made the office more accessible to members and friends. Our first kayak trip on McMichael Creek gave people an opportunity to see our hidden, beautiful streams, and convinced us we need to do more programs to get people on and in the water,” Stevens said.

“Energetic new board members, new partnerships, and lots of new ‘Streamwatch’ volunteers are already helping achieve that goal. Theresa Merli’s leadership as executive director, with the help of many involved board members, has grown membership, outreach and public programs. Look for more in our second year under Theresa’s guidance.”

The organization maintains a Web site, [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org).

Keynote speaker at the annual meeting was Emmy award-winning science and environmental reporter and book author Ben Gelber, who has been forecasting weather for NBC4 in Columbus, Ohio, since 1980. His experiences growing up among Brodhead watershed residents who each had stories about the flood of 1955, which killed 78 local people, fueled his passion to understand the weather.

Gelber addressed climate change in his remarks, noting that climatologists, relying on a long view and data spanning tens of thousands of years, are more likely than meteorologists to accept the significance of human activity in the current climate cycle.

Meteorologists in the United States are working off data that only goes back to 1848, he noted, and are, by profession, constantly looking at short-term weather causes. Gelber noted that the most indisputable effect of the weather right now is huge rainfall events; storms putting eight to 14 inches of rain on a location are simply unprecedented in the weather records, he said.

The Brodhead Watershed Association is a non-profit educational organization formed in 1989. BWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving water resources and the environment of the Brodhead watershed and the water quality of the Brodhead, Cherry, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries. In addition, the BWA assists municipalities, residents, businesses and groups with protecting natural resources through education, workshops, seminars, public programs and stream monitoring.

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