

Streamside Asides



February 2016

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 of Trout Unlimited

Event Schedule:

- February 10 @ 7 PM:
Fly Tying Round Robin,
MCCD Building
- March 9 @ 7 PM:
General Membership
Meeting w/Don Baylor
presenting his
Colorado Fly-Fishing
Program
- March 18 @ 5:30 PM:
ANNUAL BANQUET
at Ridgecrest of
Stroudsmoor Country
Inn
- March 19 @ 9 AM: BTU
-MCCD Fly Fishing
Workshop

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New Year, New Activities, New Projects



Bill Hakim moving rocks for placement into Pocono Creek along the Pocono Heritage Land Trust tract in Tannersville.

Happy New Year 2016! It's taken a while for the winter weather to arrive but it seems that it is finally here and for some of us it came with a vengeance. For those of you who enjoy skiing, your season is upon you so enjoy.

As we begin this new year, our Brodhead Chapter Board is spending considerable time in preparing the activities for 2016. These include chapter meetings, special events, and chapter projects and we assure you we will be busy. That means there will be opportunities to volunteer, chances to engage in project work, and time to network with members and friends as we continue our work to conserve and protect the cold-water resources in the Pocono area.

An important, upcoming event to remember is our annual Spring Banquet, our primary source of funding. This is scheduled for Friday, March 18,

2016, in Ridgecrest at the Stroudsmoor Country Inn. As this new year unfolds, we look forward to seeing you, working with you, and continuing our mission to conserve and protect our cold-water resources.

2016 Annual Spring Banquet

The 18th Annual Spring Banquet will be held at Ridgecrest, Stroudsmoor Country Inn, on Friday, March 18th, 2016. The doors will open at 5:30 PM for conversation and comradery and a cash bar will be available. Our program will start at 6:30 PM and dinner will be at 7:00 PM.



We will once again offer premium and bucket raffles for a wide variety of items—not just fishing gear! We truly do have something for everybody and there are door prizes, too.

So if you're a member, if you're a friend, if you're a friend of a member, contact one of our Board of Directors listed inside to purchase your tickets. Cost is \$35.00 per adult and \$20 for children. Last year we had one of our biggest turn-outs in our history and that was with a snowstorm on the day of the event! Reserve your tickets soon and we look forward to seeing you there.

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The Home Pool

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Another new year is upon us and our calendar is getting full and, frankly, I think that's great. As an organization dedicated to reaching out through education, projects, and communication, if we aren't busy then we're not doing our job. Fly-tying classes, meetings, our banquet and a fly-fishing workshop are part of our 1st quarter activities and the remainder of the year looks pretty much the same. We will be finishing our Pocono Creek Phase I project and the McMichaels Creek project and beginning work on potential new Pocono activity this summer. We have a variety of outreach programs in which we will engage and I'm sure there will be something new that will come our way. I look forward to a great 2016 as we work together as responsible stewards of our resources.

Fly-tying Class Underway with Field Trip Possible!

The newly revised winter fly-tying class got underway with an introductory methods class on Wednesday, January 6. Run by Scott Cesari and Tim "Shorty" Bartholomew, the class meets on Saturday mornings through Feb 20. With two dozen enrollees, this is one of the largest groups we've had and boy, are they talented!

After three weeks, we can see that their efforts are paying off and the products

they are producing are worthy fish-catchers. After a snow-day and an off week, we look forward to resuming work on February 6th. See the photos on the next page to see this class in action!



Instructor Scott Cesari leading the class through an early tie.



Fly-tiers of all ages practice their skills under the watchful eyes of Brodhead TU members during the beginner's sessions of the BTU tying class being held at the Monroe County Conservation District building near Bartonsville.



Students in the class tied the flies shown above. Talent abounds in that room!



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Bringing New Life to An Aging Fly Rod: A Mission

Truth be told, I have a difficult time throwing things away. Add my love for fly rods and fly-fishing and getting rid of a rod is all but impossible. In fact, I have never thrown one away, ever. The latest inventory in my basement reveals dozens of fly rods in a variety of sizes, shapes, colors, and compositions. Do I need that many? Absolutely not. Are they the latest and greatest? No way! Do some of them need some tender loving care? Oh yes, and that's something I enjoy immensely—bringing new life to an old fly rod.

The first rod I resurrected was an old bamboo rod I

found in my parents' garage. Being the first one I tried, I didn't know you shouldn't sand down to the power fibers! Oh well, it looked good, was a bit wimpy, but it caught fish. Learning my lessons and reading some more, I gathered up another rod from the garage, a Montague Amateur. This came out great except for one flaw: The decal was now on the top flat! But the wraps and finish came out just fine. Having "failed" twice, I did some more research and then started on a rod with some personal history: a rod with my father's name and address from 1935. This one I had to get right.

Long story short, it came out great and I gave it back to Dad. He used it once or twice but when he passed away a few years ago I took it out to fish along his land at Penns Creek. It was an exhilarating feeling when I caught a 14" smallmouth with it out of "Pappy's Hole."

Every time I fix up a rod, I wonder who owned it? Did they fish often? Did it catch a trophy? Was it handed down to sons, to daughters, and to grandchildren?

I have rods that are 5-95 years old. Imagine the number of fish those rods caught, all the wildlife they saw along the creek, the miles they traveled to and fro! No rod with this experience should suffer the indignity of falling into disrepair or, heaven forbid, being thrown away. I believe there is life, and fish, left in these rods, whether they are bamboo, 1st or 2nd generation fiberglass or the graphite rods of today.

If you get a chance, save an old rod and let it experience the joy of catching fish again. It will "smile" and so will you.

Editor



His father's refinished bamboo rod (above) and the author (right) with a smallie from Penns Creek.



Winter: Time to Inventory, Evaluate, and Maintain Your Gear.

When the streams ice-over and the wind chills are in the negative numbers, it's a good time to take stock of your gear. Better to have everything ready to go so that on those first warmer days you can be out the door and on the creek without worrying about your rod, line, or reel.

Do a full length inspection of the rod(s) you use. Look for nicks from bead heads, loose guides, grooves in the tip top and other small items that are important in the functioning of the rod. Is the grip secure? Is the reel seat working as it should? Does the hook keeper look okay? You'd be surprised what a rod can look like after a full season of work in the trees and rocks of our Pennsylvania streams. If everything looks good or after you make some minor repairs, give the rod a good cleaning—it's earned it!

After the rod is in good shape, check out your line. Is it dirty? Is it cracked? Is the nail knot or loop secure to the leader. A clean, smooth fly line will go through the guides easily and make casting easier. A mild soap solution in warm water can clean much of the accumulated crud off your line. Just be sure to do a good rinse job as soap residue can cause even greater dirt build up.

The reel is a final component to check. Is it greased? Does the drag work? Are there any sand grains in the mechanism? Check to be sure no rocks bent the frame. Again, a year of work along the creek can take its toll. A clean, smooth-working reel can be the difference between landing the trophy or hearing that agonizing "SNAP!" as the reel seizes and the tippet breaks.

Potpourri

- ♦ Open-Space funding has been restored and approved for a 3-year period. This is especially important in preserving land for public use and recreation.
- ♦ Brodhead TU has signed on to the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW), an informal organization of conservation groups focused on the health of the Delaware River Watershed. Our Pocono streams serve as the headwaters to the Brodhead Creek and the Lehigh River, both of which are tributaries to the Delaware.
- ♦ Brodhead TU is exploring the possibility of a spring or summer field trip to the two Cold-Water Conservation Corp water quality testing sites on Leas Run and Stony Run, tributaries to our namesake Brodhead.
- ♦ Our December "Pies and Flies" event attracted 25 members and friends to gather and share stories, flies, and some pizza. We'll be doing it again next year!
- ♦ Our Trout in the Classroom project is underway again this year at Swiftwater Intermediate School. Eggs hatched well but the fry ran into some problems. The remaining fish, however, seem to be doing well.
- ♦ The annual Fly-Tying Round Robin will take place at MCCD on February 10th at 7:00 PM.

BRODHEAD TU FEBRUARY MEETING!



Wednesday, February 10, 2016 — 7:00 PM

Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

8050 Running Valley Road, Bartonsville

FEBRUARY 2016 MEETING & FLY-TYING CLASS NOTICE:

ANNUAL FLY-TYING ROUND ROBIN!



Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm

REVIEW FLY-TYING TECHNIQUES!

MASTER PATTERNS THAT REALLY WORK!

This is a great event, and we're looking forward to seeing YOU!

n.b.: The Rim Rock Road Bridge is under construction; thus, the KCEEC is inaccessible from Rt. 611.

Access from BUS. RT. 209 or other alternate route is required.



BRODHEAD CHAPTER — TROUT UNLIMITED
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES ITS
18TH ANNUAL

BANQUET!

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2016

AT THE RIDGECREST
STROUDSMOOR COUNTRY INN
231 STROUDSMOOR ROAD ~ STROUDSBURG, PA

CASH BAR AT 5:30 PM ~ DINNER AT 6:30 PM
CONSERVATION PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7:30 PM

A FUN-FILLED EVENING INCLUDES RAFFLE PRIZES OF RODS, REELS, FISHING EQUIPMENT,
FISHING ACCESSORIES, CLOTHING, ORIGINAL FINE ART; SPECIAL PRIZES FOR THE LADIES

ADMISSION CHARGE IS JUST \$35.00 PER PERSON
CHILDREN'S MEAL JUST \$20.00

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE...ACT NOW TO RESERVE A TABLE FOR EIGHT!

FOR TICKETS & PROGRAM INFORMATION, CONTACT ERIC BAIRD
570-355-0165 OR ERATBAIRD@FRONTIERNET.NET; OR, JUST COMPLETE THE FORM
BELOW AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

**SUMPTUOUS
BUFFET
DINNER!**

ERIC BAIRD
267 3RD STREET
POCONO PINES, PA 18350

**GREAT
PRIZES!**

TICKET DEADLINE IS MARCH 8TH

CUTOFF NUMBER IS 175 SEATS!

Complete and return this portion with your check payable to: Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Eric Baird, 267 3rd Street, Pocono Pines, PA 18350
HURRY! THE TICKET DEADLINE IS MARCH 8th!

- ☐ Yes, I'll be there! Send me _____ adult tickets at \$35.00 each and _____ children's tickets at \$20.00 each, totaling \$ _____, which I have enclosed.
- ☐ I would like to reserve a table for eight at a total cost of \$280.00.
- ☐ I am unable to attend, but please accept my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

BRODHEAD TU MARCH MEETING!



Wednesday, March 9, 2016 — 7:00 PM

Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

8050 Running Valley Road, Bartonsville

DON BAYLOR Presents... **Fly-Fishing Colorado!**



Don Baylor's *FLYFISHING COLORADO* is a program that combines the experiences from many years of fly-fishing trips to northwest Colorado. The major rivers covered are the Colorado, Eagle, Yampa, Roaring Fork, Frying Pan, Williams Fork, and Elk.

In addition, many smaller tributaries and backcountry lakes will be discussed, including a llama trek through the Flattops Wilderness.

Information on tactics, hatches, and fly patterns is included.

This is a great event, and we're looking forward to seeing YOU!

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BRODHEAD TU APRIL MEETING!

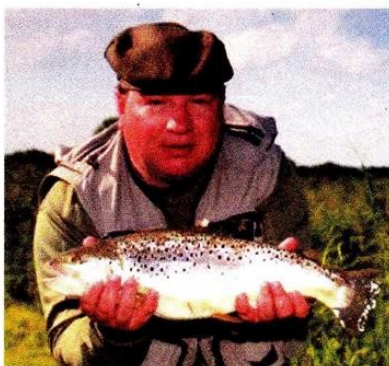


Wednesday, April 13, 2016 — 7:00 PM

Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

8050 Running Valley Road, Bartonsville

John Shaner Reveals SOFT-HACKLE SECRETS!



John Shaner: I have been fly fishing for as long as I can remember and caught my first trout on a fly I tied myself in 1965. I grew up in the Finger Lakes region of New York and was fishing the Catskill Rivers as soon as I could drive.

Over the years I have fished for trout extensively across the US and have made several trips to England to fish the famous Chalk Streams and other rivers. I have a special love for Montana and Wyoming and I lived in West Yellowstone, MT for a number of years. My favorite rivers are; The West branch of the Delaware and Beaverkill, in New York, the Firehole and Madison system in

Yellowstone Park, and the Rivers Itchen, Eden, and Eamont in England.

I have also fished the Bahamas, Belize, and Florida for saltwater species.

I have worked in the fly fishing business since 1985 and have managed fly shops, guided, and worked as a sales representative for Orvis, Cortland Line, and is now Regional Fly Fishing Manager for Pure Fishing, covering the Hardy, Fenwick, Hodgman, and Pflueger Brands.

My interest in fly tying goes back to boyhood. I am mostly self-taught but have studied many techniques over the years and have a special interest in reproducing traditional trout fly patterns. I enjoy experimenting with new patterns, but am a bit of a traditionalist in my use of materials, and seldom incorporate synthetics into my flies, preferring natural silk, fur, and feathers.

About twenty years ago I developed a fascination for "Spiders" (Americans call them soft hackles), and enjoy tying and fishing these simple, elegant, and deadly flies.

Another interest is collecting classic tackle and angling books. My "library" (which is getting out of hand!) is primarily devoted to books detailing the development of flies and tying techniques.

Currently, I live in southern New York State, just a few minutes from the West Branch of the Delaware and Beaverkill.

This is a great event, and we're looking forward to seeing YOU!

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Access from BUS. RT. 209 or other alternate route is required.



Brodhead Chapter of
Trout Unlimited



Stroud Township
Brodhead Creek Park



Father John T. Butler
Council No. 4084



PA Fish
Commission

40th Annual Knights of Columbus Children's Trout Fishing Contest

April 16, 2016

8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.
Registration 7:00 a.m.



Opening Day of Trout Season
for children up to 12 years of age



at the pond at Brodhead Creek Park
Rte. 191, just north of Big Wheel

LOTS OF PRIZES

donated by local merchants & major tackle manufacturers

Rain or Shine

NO FEE... it's FREE!

Bring your own tackle and bait

BTU Calendar of Events: February through April 2016

(This calendar is subject to change as events are added or changes are necessitated.)

February 4, 7 PM: Board meeting at ESU

February 10, 7:00 PM: Fly tying round-robin and session #7 of the fly tying class.

Monroe County Conservation District Building (MCCD) in Bartonsville.

February 13, 9 AM: Fly tying class session #8. MCCD building.

February 20, 9 AM: Fly tying class make-up session as needed.

March 3, 7 PM: Board meeting at ESU

March 9, 7 PM: General Membership Meeting at MCCD: Colorado Fly Fishing

March 18, 5:30 PM: Annual Banquet at Ridgrecrest of Stroudsmoor County Inn

March 19, 9 AM: BTU/MCCD Fly-Fishing Workshop at the MCCD building.

April 7, PM: Board meeting at ESU

April 13, 7 PM: General Membership Meeting—Wet Flies and techniques by John Shaner at MCCD

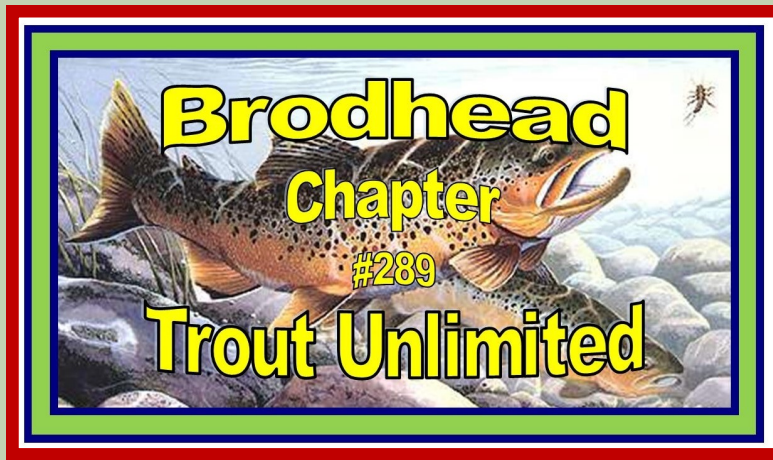
April 13, 10 AM: Project Healing Waters, Site To Be Determined

April 16, 8 AM: Annual Knights of Columbus Children's Trout Fishing Contest

Brodhead Park Pond, Stroudsburg

April 24, 9 AM: BTU Fly-Fishing Workshop at Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingman's Ferry, PA (concludes @ 2 PM)





FISHING BUDDIES WANT YOU!

The 2016 cadre of available Brodhead TU anglers who have volunteered their services for **Gerry Bortz' Fishing Buddies Program** are always ready to receive calls for the trout fly fishing season. Kindly plan ahead; don't call the night before you want to go fishing and expect the availability of one of our volunteers. **Please save this page and know that caring members of YOUR chapter are here to help any fledgling fly-fishers with "getting their feet wet" in one of our lovely local streams.** The following BTU chapter members have generously offered their time and expertise to assist fellow BTU members in learning the local waters: **Eric Baird** (570-355-0165; evenings & weekends; Tobyhanna, Hickory Run & Devil's Hole); **Tom Battista** (610-681-6307; Sunday mornings; any stream); **Gerry Bortz** (570-895-1099; weekdays; Brodhead & McMichaels Creeks); **Todd Burns** (610-704-4549; Weekends, holidays; Martins Creek and Pocono Creek); **Scott Cesari** (570-897-5830; Evenings & weekends; any streams); **Will Daskal** (610-381-6188; call for availability); **Jeff Heberley** (570-421-3184; any time; anywhere); **Glenn Hessler** (570-629-5492; weekends; Brodhead & McMichaels Creeks); **Tom Magera** (570-977-4381; weekdays in the morning & weekends any time; any stream); **Eric McLendon** (610-863-9097; anytime; anywhere); **Ron Mishkin** (570-460-5031; evenings & weekends; Brodhead & McMichaels Creeks and others); **Frank Russo** (570-839-3436; any time; anywhere); and **John Schriever** (570-722-9797; anytime; anywhere).

The State of Our Membership:

Adult Members = 205

Youth Members = 4

Total Chapter Members—209

Address Changes: KINDLY NOTE...

If you have moved, or if you received a new physical address pursuant to the Monroe County 911E program, **only YOU can effect an address change through National TU.** You can do it directly on the TU.org website by logging in to your account with your TU member number, or you can call them up directly at one of the following numbers: TOLL FREE: 1-800-834-2419; National Office: (703) 522-0200; Fax: (703) 284-9400 and make the change.

Thanks for your understanding in this timely matter.—Ed.

Streamside *asides*

*All material for submission for your newsletter
should be sent to the editor at the following address:*

Streamside Asides

Todd Burns, Editor

tgburns@rcn.com



Visit our web page at:

Brodheadtu.org for more information, photos, and scheduled events.

If your membership is about to expire, please take a few minutes to renew. We appreciate your support and assistance with our projects and outreach opportunities.



Brodhead Chapter — Trout Unlimited, #289



2013 PATU BEST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AWARD WINNER!

We wish to thank the following
individuals and businesses for their
continued support of our efforts:



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Brodhead Chapter — Trout Unlimited, #289



2015 PATU BEST CHAPTER WEB SITE AWARD WINNER!