

Streamside Asides



Event Schedule:

- 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
- April 13 @ 7 PM:
General Membership Meeting w/John Shaner: Soft-hackle Secrets
- April 16 @ 7 AM Fishing Derby at Brodhead Park

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March 2016

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 of Trout Unlimited

2016 Annual Spring Banquet

Don't forget to mark you calendar for the 18th Annual Brodhead Trout Unlimited Spring Banquet on Friday, March 18th, 2016. Once again we will convene at Ridgecrest, Stroudsmoor Country Inn, near Stroudsburg. 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.

The annual banquet is our single largest fundraiser for the year. With this event we generate the funds needed for stream projects (In 2016 the Pocono Creek and McMichaels Creek), educational outreach (Trout in the Classroom, Fly-tying classes and four fly-fishing workshops) and conservation outreach. We appreciate the generosity our members, friends, and the community have shown in the past and we look forward to their continued support.



We have been busy gathering a variety of prizes: large and small, rare and common, original and prints, fishing-related and things for around the house. It is our sincere hope that you go home with the items you fancy. We will 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, or just want to help us conserve and protect the beautiful resources for which we care, contact one of our Board of Directors listed inside to purchase your tickets. Cost is \$35.00 per adult and \$20 for children. We look forward to a great turnout and a great evening. Reserve your tickets soon and we look forward to seeing you there.

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The Home Pool

Todd G. Burns, President
Brodhead Chapter — Trout Unlimited, #289
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It's March. The robins are back, temperatures are predicted to be in the 60's, and the ice is off even the most remote streams and pools. Heck, we even saw some tulip tops popping up through the leaf litter last week. Perhaps the groundhog was right and spring is, indeed, just around the corner. And just as nature stirs and comes to life after the winter, so do we as the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Our monthly chapter meetings begin again on March 9th, the Spring Banquet is on March 18th, our fly-fishing workshop at KCEEC is on March 19th and the Knights of Columbus/Stroud Township kids fishing derby will take place on the opening day of trout season—April 16th. After that there is another fly-fishing workshop at PEEC in late April, another at ForeverGreen Preserve in June and the annual June Picnic along the Brodhead Creek. Throw in the completion of Phase I of our Pocono Creek project in June and the first half of this year is hopping—just like we like it! As always, we encourage all members and friends who would like to assist and join us to drop us a line or give us a call. We'll be glad to give you some information and directions.

In case you missed it, a recent news article announced that the former Penns Hills property on Route 191/447 was sold. This property abuts the Brodhead Creek and is on the opposite, downstream side of the ForeverGreen Preserve. We are hopeful that any new use for that property could enhance the beautiful setting that currently exists.

Keep in mind that our second stream project this year involves the McMichaels Creek by the soccer fields off Route 33. We don't have a work date solidified at this time but when we get one, we'll let you know.

We have a lot going on several different fronts as continue our conservation, education, and communication efforts and I thank you for your assistance.

Tight lines and clean waters.

Todd G. Burns

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If You Look Around, You'll Learn Something

About 30 years ago I made the trek up Route 209, got off on a little side road, and stopped at a parking area near Egypt Mills. There wasn't much there: a few big white pines, an outdated restroom, some old fruit trees and a spot to park. Being in a hurry as I was there to fish, all sorts of interesting items around me went unnoticed. But as time went by and I revisited, (and I got older and slowed down) I began to nose around.

There were the remains of an old dam. A dam for what? A mill. Duh...Egypt Mills! I followed what looked like the old millrace until I came to the foundation of the mill house and sure enough there was the pit into which the millrace emptied. Scattered about were old ceramic-clad metal containers, complete with shot-shell holes. There was even a large piece of ironwork in the bottom of the pit. I continued down toward Route 209 and there was the millrace exit, a little stone edifice through which the waters of Toms Creek had flowed. After working to grind grain into various types of flours, this is how the water silently returned to the creek.

Upstream, in and along the creek, there were a variety of concrete, stone, and wooden structures. These had been constructed with care, some more recently and some quite some time ago. Good stuff lasts. When I first visited, there were three fords of the creek, complete with timber and rock/rubble "bridges". The road was passable and still sometimes used by those who had access. No fallen trees blocked the way.

After years of snooping around in person, the rise of the Internet allowed me to snoop on-line. Now the pieces of the puzzle were starting to fit together.

This area originally belonged to the William Nyce family. It had a working farm with a sawmill and the grain mill. There was a smokehouse, ice house, a general store and the typical structures you'd find in a little village in the 1800's. This land stayed in the family until the late 1880's when it was purchased by the Egypt Mills Club, a private entity whose members, it appears, primarily lived in the Philadelphia area. The club

built many of the structures I had seen along the creek, including Landis Lake on top of the hill (named after the man in charge of facilities). There was a large clubhouse just in front of the present parking lot and the old fruit trees I had seen 30 years ago were in the back yard. The stumps from the large trees in front of the clubhouse are still there.

The Club existed until the Tocks Island Dam Project of 1960s had the federal government purchase the land. By about 1973-1974, the structures associated with the club and the old farm were demolished in preparation for the intended flooding of the valley.

A lot has changed for this place. The structures have crumbled, the dams have vanished and the fords are almost completely gone. The stream once again does what it wants. But a lot happened here and if I hadn't stopped to look around, I wouldn't have learned anything. Every time I fish here or anywhere else, I'm going to keep on looking!

Editor



Remnants of the old dam and the sluice gate on Tom's Creek



Left. The stone tunnel where water flowed into the mill pond on the east side of the access road.

Below is a 2013 view from the pit where the waters of Toms Creek once turned a water wheel.



Below. The floor of the mill house as seen in 2013.



Left. A portion of what appears to be the last surviving jack-dam on Toms Creek. Photo taken in 2016..

Speakers' Series Program at Penn State Hazleton Campus—Waterways Hiking Trails of Pennsylvania

The value of riverfront trails and greenspace has recently been recognized as a great way to restore, revitalize and promote neglected areas near rivers and streams. Formerly forgotten historic, cultural and environmentally degraded areas are now valuable scenic byways that offer great hiking opportunities and access to fishing locations and many other forms of recreation. Representatives from several waterways trails in central and eastern Pennsylvania will join Western Pocono Trout Unlimited for a program dedicated to celebrating and informing the community of the many trails that have been established along waterways in our area.

Speakers from Susquehanna River Greenway, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Association, Lackawanna River Valley Heritage Trail Association, Pocono Heritage Land Trust Association/Brodhead TU, (Pocono and Brodhead trails with Don Miller,) and the Hazleton Rails to Trails will provide wonderful slide presentations exhibiting the natural beauty, historic sites, and recreational opportunities these riverside hiking trails provide. Over the past few years waterways hiking trails have added immensely to the cultural enrichment and economic value of the towns and cities along Pennsylvania's many rivers and streams. They provide safe and convenient opportunities for recreation that improves our health and wellness. They also provide habitat protection and access for fishermen, hikers, bicyclists, birders, photographers, canoeists/kayakers and many other outdoor enthusiasts. Literally hundreds of trout filled tributaries flow into the rivers where these trails exist.

Come hear the inspiring stories of how the waterways trails concept began their construction methods, the funding programs that provided for them, the diverse sites, fascinating historic backgrounds, and the enthusiastic workers and many volunteers that have made them possible. This is a great opportunity for fisherman and all outdoors enthusiasts to appreciate, enjoy and learn more about these recreational treasures that are being built around the commonwealth and the country. Please inform friends and family who may not be fishermen to take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn more about these wonderful family friendly projects. The public is welcome and there is no charge or registration. The Penn State Campus Kostos Classroom auditorium provides a spacious and comfortable setting. (Information from the Western Pocono newsletter. Thank you!)



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!

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: _____

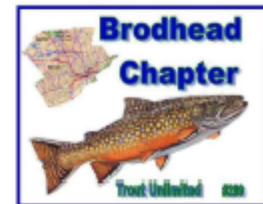
EMAIL: _____



AA OUTFITTERS



PRESENTS



**BRODHEAD CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED
MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION SALE
20% OFF THE ENTIRE STORE**

Saturday March 26th, 2016 - 10:00 AM to 4:00PM

AA Outfitters

5728 Route 115 Blakeslee, PA 18610

Phone: 570-643-8000

www.aaoutfitters.com

N 41.096012°, W 075.595745°

**TO ANY MEMBER OF THE
BRODHEAD CHAPTER TROUT UNLIMITED**

AA Outfitters also extends this generous offer and a free gift to anyone who joins the Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited at the sale. Chapter Representatives will be processing new memberships during the sale.

BRODHEAD TU APRIL MEETING!

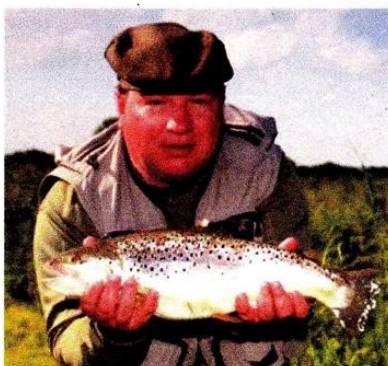


Wednesday, April 13, 2016 — 7:00 PM

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!

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 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.)

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

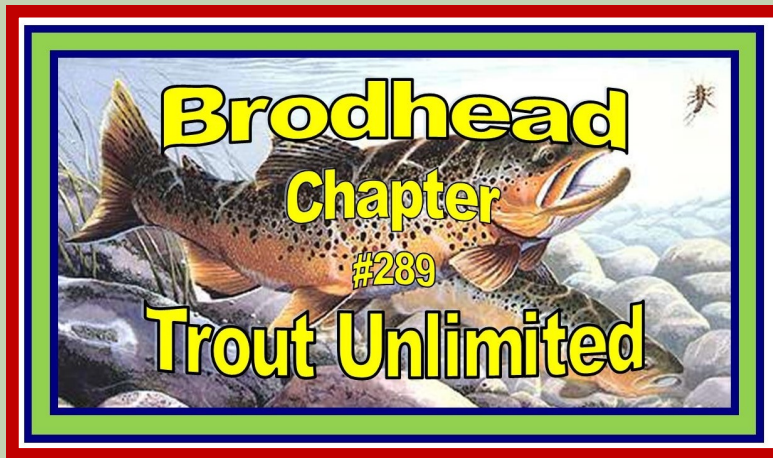
April 13, 10 AM: Project Healing Waters, Site To Be Determined

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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business. For information and rates, contact**

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Brodhead Chapter — Trout Unlimited, #289



2015 PATU BEST CHAPTER WEB SITE AWARD WINNER!