

Streamside Asides



June 2020

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 of Trout Unlimited

Meetings:

June 15 Start date: Cherry Creek Habitat Improvement. Information will be provided if, how and when this event occurs.

Decisions on participating in and sponsoring future events will be made by the Board of Directors based upon data on hand and the direction of the PA Department of Health guidelines. Stay tuned and we will let you know!



Waiting: It's the Hardest Part.

Like the rower pictured in William Merritt Chase's painting, we're feeling a bit isolated. But we're anxiously waiting for that time when we can once again get together, share stories, work on a few projects and help conserve the cold water resources in the Poconos. And, truth be told, that's hard. We love working together, sharing our knowledge of fly-tying, trout fishing, and telling some true "whopper" stories. We truly like to work and not being out there building habitats, cleaning stream sides, collecting data, designing devices, working with other groups, teaching classes and observing nature is tough. But, we're working toward that day when we once again do that with vigor.

So, yes, we're still waiting, But we know we will return with more energy than ever and that our lonely rowboat will be joined by many others. See you soon!

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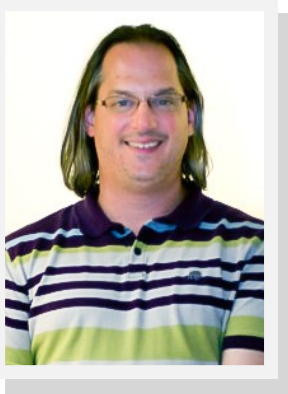
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The Home Pool

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Dear Members and Friends,

As we slowly return to normalcy we can start to look forward to some in person events. While we decided to cancel our annual banquet that we originally rescheduled for July 31st, we are planning a membership celebration for September (tentatively September 19th). We hope to incorporate some things from our traditional June Picnic, our annual banquet, and a couple of meetings that we missed so stay tuned for more details.

One thing I took away from our safe at home experience is learning what is truly important to me. That can be different for each and every one of us, but for me it reaffirmed my need for clean cold free flowing streams protected in publicly accessible open space, well that and my family. It seems like our public open space areas have become very important to a lot of people judging from the crowds at every parking lot and trail-head. I hope that people can remember how important those public lands are in November.

While our two existing Trout in the Classroom (TIC) programs got shortchanged this year, we are still committed to growing the program. We have two new teachers training this summer to be able have a TIC program this fall. We also have another existing TIC program that has reached out to the Chapter to be involved in their program. All told we may have five TIC programs for the next school year, and we are not done, if you know a teacher that might be interested in the TIC program have them reach out to one of our co-chairs Daniel Steere (dsteere410@gmail.com) and Larry Ott (fishlott@frontiernet.net).

In other news we will also be holding Chapter elections at our September event. We have a nearly full slate of officers and board members, but we are looking for a Treasurer. If you are interested and would like to learn about what is involved in being our next Treasurer you can contact our current Treasurer, Russ Thrall (rthrall@collisionweek.com) to learn more. If you are interested and want to learn about our other board and officer positions you can contact Selection Committee Chair, Greg Malaska (gregmalaska@gmail.com). As I reiterate every month, this Chapter belongs to all of us and I believe every members voice is important so if you have ideas on how to improve the Chapter feel free to reach out to me (ericrobertbaird@gmail.com) or any the Chapter leaders.

So until we can get together again (hopefully in September) tight lines and be safe.

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PAST- DIRECTORS FOR THEIR RECENT SERVICE:

Gerry Bortz

James Connor

Ann Foster

Tom Van Zandt



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

We are pleased to welcome five new members to our chapter: Julia Dougherty, Julia Fernald, Jonathan Paul and April Thrall. We look forward to working with you on our mission and if you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Renewing Members

Thank you to who have chosen to renew their memberships with us. Your efforts in supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated.

Michael	Casey
Jere	Dunkelberger
Ben	Giralico
Eric	Girardi
Jeffrey	Heberley
Steven	Pheasant
Gary	Pysher
Terry	Snyder
Arie	VanWingerden

Contributing Members

Thank you to our recent contributing members. Your continuing support of Brodhead TU's mission is gratefully acknowledged.

Kevin	Boutin
John	Fossett
Tim	Fretz
Patricia	Kennedy
Gregory	Latsko
Homer	Lee



thank you!

Bushkill Creek, Northampton County: Update

On Friday, June 5, 2020, Bushkill Creek, a Class A Wild Trout water near Tatamy, PA, went dry. Yes, dry. Not low, not extremely low, but dry—for about 14 hours. Thousands of fish were killed, from the Stockertown area through Tatamy and downstream near Easton. These fish, many of which were wild, stream-bred brown trout, slowly suffocated on the damp creek bed or in slowly warming pools of deoxygenating water. Local officials, Forks of the Delaware TU, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission responded and were on the scene that day.

How does such a thing happen?

Bushkill Creek's upstream waters run off the south side of Blue Mountain. They travel through Jacobsburg State Park as a "freestoner" and meander south to Stockertown. This is where the creek encounters an underlying [carbonate geology](#) - limestone. Limestone is water soluble, meaning it can be eroded by groundwater. Over time, large, underground, water-filled voids form in the limestone which supports the overlying rocks and soil. If the water table drops or enough limestone dissolves, the overlying rocks and soil can collapse and form a sinkhole. There are several sinkholes that siphon water out of Bushkill Creek in this area. (You may want to do a quick search for "karst topography.")



Located near Stockertown is a stone quarry that currently works below the water table. Whereas water will flow to the lowest point, groundwater that would normally fill the surrounding limestone voids and help feed the stream flows into the quarry. The water is pumped back up into the stream bed by massive electrical pumps. If the pumps fail, groundwater continues to infiltrate the quarry but with no water going back out, the creek dries up. That's what happened on June 4-5 when a lightning strike cut off power to the pumps.

De-watering of the creek has occurred before, with most recent events happening in 2013 and 2018. This 2020 event appears to have had the longest duration and thus the potential to inflict the most damage to the ecosystem.

A Class A Wild Trout stream is a High Quality stream. A High Quality stream has and deserves protection from degradation and events that would cause it to lose its status. As we wait and see how this is handled, we encourage you to speak with your elected officials and urge them to formulate and coordinate a responsible solution to prevent such an egregious event from occurring (yet) again. A creek should not look like a Martian landscape.



(Photo credits: Top right & bottom right—Joe Baylog. Left—Vaughn Miller.)

Fishing Report

Well, the reports we're getting indicate the fish are enjoying the late spring weather as they fatten up on a variety of adult and juvenile insect forms. And it also appears that getting out to do some fishing is a very popular thing to do when you can't go to work or need to escape from the house. Keeping our streams clean and fit for fish and fishermen has taken on a new importance in the shadow of COVID-19.

So, what's going on?



Sulphurs are currently hatching on streams like the Brodhead Creek, McMichaels Creek, Appenzell Creek, Martins Creek and Cherry Creek. Hatches seem to be coming off around 7:30 PM (give or take) and adult, emerger and spinner patterns will work as the night goes on. Size #14-#16 should do the job. Isonychia or Slate Drakes are also hatching on area streams. Size #14 is a safe bet and a rusty spinner in the same size is also a good idea to have in your box. Warm, rainy June mornings can give rise (no pun intended) to a really good Blue Wing Olive hatch on waters such as the Brodhead. Again, size

#14 is a good place to start but could go up to a #12. You might see some Light Cahills coming off at dusk, too, so it's a good idea to have some #14s of those. Of course, we still have a variety of caddis hatching (carry emergers and adults) and we should start to see some Yellow Sallies soon. Size #16 - #14 is normal for these little stoneflies you'll find in the cool, tributary streams.

As we head into summer, remember to keep the temperature of the water in mind. Brown trout get stressed above 68 degrees Fahrenheit and brookies around 65 degrees. If it warms up too much, head out to the lake or pond and get some bluegills and pumpkinseeds. You can practice your casting accuracy by seeing how close to the weed bed you can put a size #8 popper!



News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest

COMMENTS NEEDED: Potential Additions to the Class A and Wild Trout Waters List:

PAFBC is soliciting input on proposed additions to the Class A and Wild Trout Waters lists. Follow this link and make your voice heard in favor of these changes. The comment period ends **June 19, 2020** so click away!

<https://www.fishandboat.com/Regulations/Pages/ProposedRecentRegulations.aspx>

PA Legislative News:

The PA House and Senate have been in session the past month with multiple voting days on various pieces of legislation. Some of these bills could affect the cold-water resources of the greater Pocono region and some of them negatively impact the ability of departments such as DEP to carry out their respective missions.

We encourage you to stay up-to-date on current legislation in the PA House and Senate. Bills can come up for a vote quickly and your voice can make a difference. For updates on what is happening, we encourage you to visit:

<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/>

This resource is searchable so you can simply type in your topic or Bill # and find some information. Also, we sometimes send Local Action Alert emails to our membership when an important legislative vote is imminent. *Even though our attention is currently on the COVID-19 situation, be aware there are bills and amendments being put forth that would affect funding, enforcement and regulations within agencies that are charged with protecting the clean, healthy environment guaranteed in our state's constitution.*

Federal:

More information can be found at these links:

<https://www.tu.org/action-center>

<http://bit.ly/2020WOTUS>

A Georgetown Law source provides a comprehensive overview of environmental legislation:

<http://guides.ll.georgetown.edu/c.php?g=209325&p=3611206>

Local and State Resources:

[Brodhead Watershed Association](#)

[Monroe County Conservation District](#)

[PA Fish & Boat Commission: Rulemakings](#)

[Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#)

- **DEP Water Quality Information.** This [link](#) will take you to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website that focuses upon water-related issues. You will find links for existing stream uses, proposed rulemaking, anti-degradation measures and more.

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2020

ALL EVENTS ARE IN TBD/TBA STATUS

June 13, 2020: ANNUAL PICNIC at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve—**CANCELLED**

June 15, 2020: Brodhead Fly Tyers Meeting—MOVING ON-LINE.

June 26, 2020: Veterans Service Fishing Program—TO BE DETERMINED.

June 28, 2020: Introduction to Fly Fishing—TO BE DETERMINED.

Summer 2020 Cherry Creek Project

Summer 2020 Pomeroy Property Project

July 2020: Veterans Service Fishing Program, Date TBA

July 20, 2020 Brodhead Fly Tyers Meeting

July 23, 2020 Fly Fishing Program Conser. Camp

August Veterans Service Fishing Program, Date TBA

August 17, 2020: Brodhead Fly Tyers

September Veterans Service Fishing Program Date TBA

September 9, 2020: General Meeting

September 21, 2020: Brodhead Fly Tyers

October 20, 2020: TIC eggs arrive

October Veterans Service Fishing Program, Date TBA

October 14, 2020: General Meeting

October 19, 2020 :Brodhead Fly Tyers

November 16, 2020: Brodhead Fly Tyers

November 18, 2020: General Meeting

December 9, 2020: General Meeting

December 21, 2020: Brodhead Fly Tyers

NEW ITEM COMING SOON:

Trout Unlimited Brodhead Chapter Wooden Flyboxes



Let's be honest. No matter how many flyboxes you currently have, you want one or two of these! We've been able to secure a limited number of these boxes and will be offering them for sale at \$30.00 per unit. Pre-slitted foam inserts on both sides, magnetic closure and metal hinges compliment the beautiful woodwork and lettering. No, this won't help you catch more fish, but it will provide you with a beautiful way to store your flies. Boxes will be available for purchase at the next meeting, limit 2 per customer.

Fishing Buddies

First, Last	Contact Phone	Contact email	Water(s)	Days-Times
Todd Burns	610-704-4549	salmofisher7@gmail.com	Brodhead and all smaller Pocono streams: Pocono, McMichaels, Devil's Hole, Cranberry, etc.	Almost any day or time
Eric Baird	570-355-0165	ericrobertbaird@gmail.com	Smaller wild trout streams - Devil's Hole, Cranberry Creek, Black Creek, Hickory Run or other small "blue lines."	Evenings after 6 PM and weekends
Gerry Bortz	570-895-1099	gbflyguy@uplink.net	Brodhead and McMichaels Creeks	Weekdays.
Erik Broesicke	610-909-2652	ebroesicke@hotmail.com	Monocacy Creek, Little Lehigh, Saucon, Hokendauqua & other Lehigh Valley Streams	Weekdays between 9 AM and 3 PM
Chris Capurso	646-402-4888	chriscapurso7@gmail.com	Brodhead , Pocono, McMichaels, Devil's Hole, Cranberry, Hidden Lake. Not just trout! Artificials/flyes and C & R.	Availability varies.
James Connor		jfcnnr@gmail.com	Most local streams	Availability varies.
Eric Gusztaw	570-620-6322	egusztaw@gmail.com	Middle Brodhead, Pocono Creek, Tobyhanna Creek, Poplar Run, Cranberry Creek, Devil's Hole. Artificials/flyes and C & R.	Most weekends and evenings after 3 PM
Rich Staneski		Shadrock54@yahoo.com	Easy wading Pocono streams	Weekdays and weekends

The State of Our Membership:

Adult Members = 269

Youth Members = 6

Total Chapter Members— 275

Address Changes: KINDLY NOTE...

If you have moved 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. If that proves problematic, drop us a line and we'll take care of it.

Thanks for your understanding.—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

salmofisher7@gmail.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.

A sincere thank you is extended to the following supporters of our Chapter as we work to preserve and protect the cold-water resources in the Poconos.

		<p>Thomas R. Wilkins CEO Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Wilkins & Associates <i>"Bringing families home since 1988"</i></p> <p>570-466-4022 Direct 570-421-8950 ext. 314 Office 570-421-4514 Fax twilkins@wilkins1.com www.BHGwilkins.com</p>
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