

Streamside Asides



November 2020

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 of Trout Unlimited

Meetings:

Decisions on participating in and sponsoring future events will be made by the Board of Directors based upon the guidance from the PA Department of Health Stay tuned.

November 15: General Meeting, Fieldstone Farm Preserve, 1 PM

December 13: General Membership meeting at CVNWR, Headquarters Tract. Time: TBA

February 10: Pies and Flies (Tentative)

March General Membership Meeting: Presentation by Tim Flagler.



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BTU Going Outdoors For The November General Membership Meeting.

With concerns regarding indoor meetings growing due to continued increases in identified COVID-19 cases, Brodhead Trout Unlimited will hold its November General Membership Meeting in the form of an exploratory walk along Tank Creek. Members and friends are invited to meet at the Fieldstone Farm Preserve off Devil's Hole Road on Sunday, November 15, 2020, at 1:00 PM. Member and naturalist Don Miller will provide historical and natural history information regarding the farm, the preserve, and the surrounding areas. We will walk along the creek to look for spawning activity of our wild brown trout and also discuss locations for installation of habitat-improvement devices.

Attendees should bring a mask and, if possible, a blaze orange vest.



November General Meeting

Tank Creek Walk

At the Fieldstone Farm Preserve

Sunday November 15, 2020 at 1:00 PM



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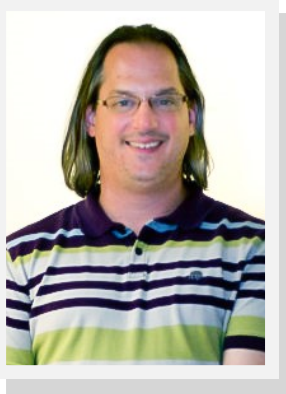
Jim Houghton

Glen Lippencott

Don Miller

Larry Ott

Arie VanWingerden



The Home Pool

Eric Baird, President
Brodhead Chapter — Trout Unlimited #289
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Dear Members and Friends,

Even though the temperatures feel like late summer, fall is here and fish are still on their redds so be careful when you are fishing, watch where you put your feet and stay out of the stream whenever you can.

The advocacy front has been fairly quiet with the events of November 3rd dominating the news and political arenas, but as things quiet down and our legislatures get back to work, we will do our best to keep our members and friends informed of any action that might impact our cold water resources.

On Sunday November 15, 2020 at 1:00 PM our General Meeting will be a walk along Tank Creek to learn the history of the Fieldstone Farm, the origins of Tank Creek's name, look for evidence of spawning trout, and discuss potential future projects in the headwater streams of the Paradise Creek. We will be meeting in the parking area of the Fieldstone Farm Preserve along Devils Hole Road.

Once again I would like to remind everyone that the Brodhead Chapter is your Chapter and if you are interested in helping shape the direction that your Chapter is going, we several leadership positions currently open for volunteers. We are currently looking to fill the Membership Chair, Event Coordinator, and Youth Education Coordinator positions. If you are interested in learning more about any of those positions or volunteering for one of those positions, please feel free to reach out me at ericrobert-baird@gmail.com or any of your Chapter leaders.

Tight lines,

Eric Baird, President

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

Gerry Bortz
James Connor
Jeff Heberley
Greg Malaska
John Smith
Daniel Steere
Tom Van Zandt



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES-September 2020

New Members

Brodhead TU welcomes the following new members: Gregory Shelley, Adam Wojtkowski, Charles Formoso, Michael Smallen and Frederick Vergara. We look forward to working with you on our mission and if you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Remember, one of the best ways to recruit new members is through personal contact. If you've got friend who shares our mission, encourage them to sign up now.

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.

James	Apgar	Fred	Freeman
Tim	Bartholomew	Steven	Gower
Tom	Battista	Rich	Isphording
Todd	Burns	Joel	Miller
John	Burrus	Frank	Mittermeier
Jeffrey	Crowley	Elmer	Stucker
Adolph	Fernandez		

Contributing Members

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

Michael	Bobitka	James	Rinker
Kevin	Boutin	Stephen	Schroettnig
Todd	Burns	Raymond	Squires
Thomas	Muller	Rodney	Stark

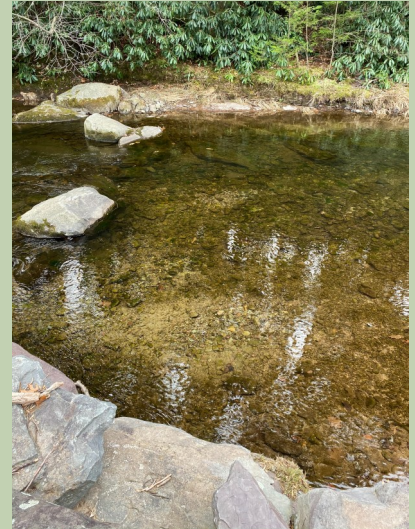


thank you!

It's Trout Spawning Time in the Poconos

As we see the leaves turn to their brilliant, fall colors and begin to gracefully descend to the forest floor, we can be assured that the spawning seasons for brook trout and brown trout are upon us. If you've never seen wild or native trout engage in their spawning rituals, head out along one of our local tributary streams this fall and take a look.

Our state fish, the Eastern Brook Trout (brookies), spawn from mid-September through November and our resident wild brown trout from mid-October through December. Adult fish will travel upstream into headwater tributaries and seek out gravel-laden bottoms, often at the tail-outs or downstream ends of pools and glides. (See photo at right.) The female will hollow out a shallow depression in the gravel by quivering her body and using her tail to move the small rocks. This soon-to-be nursery area is called a redd and its size will vary with the substrate and the size of the spawning trout. You can usually identify a redd by noticing circular or oval areas on the stream bottom that have been "cleaned."



Once the redd is built the female will lay her eggs and the male fertilizes them. The number of eggs laid per redd varies but may range from several hundred to several thousand, depending upon the size of the laying female. Often, a covering of gravel may be added to the redd after the eggs are deposited. Upon completion of these activities the adult trout will travel back downstream to their usual haunts and the eggs are left unattended.



The newly deposited trout eggs hatch during the winter months, usually some 40+ days after deposition. Hatch rates will vary due to temperatures, water flows and other environmental conditions but they may be from 30%-70% successful. The small hatchlings, called alevin when the yolk sac is attached, will grow into fry. After a few months these juveniles will be about three inches in length and, given a healthy food source, will continue to grow several inches per year.

Although we often think of fall as the end of growth and new life, in the world of the trout, it is just the beginning. Enjoy your walks and look for those redds!

(Zoom in to see a female [left] and male brown trout [right] in the preparation of a redd on Tank Creek in Monroe County. Photo taken in November 2019.)

October/November Local Fishing Report

BE CAREFUL AND AVOID SPAWNING REDDS WHEN YOU WADE.

Fall foliage colors in the Poconos have peaked and it's a great time to get outdoors and do some fishing. Water temperatures have dropped and the pre-spawn (or post-spawn!) feed is on. Slate drakes are mostly gone but we're seeing blue-winged olives and fall caddis hatching and providing food for the local trout. With low flows, continue to use a fine leader and a stealthy approach when you fish your imitations. Oh, and don't forget that streamers can really produce this time of year! Finally, fall hunting seasons began at the beginning of October so if you're fishing land that is hunted be sure to wear some high-vis orange.



Cranberry Creek in the VanBuskirk Preserve and Nothstein Preserve continues to produce fish, although very low. Brooks and browns are found throughout. A #16 greenish brown caddis can work as well as small nymphs.

(Photo by Eric Gusztaw)

Brodhead Creek and McMichaels Creek are both producing trout. Time of day is an important factor, as is water flow. In September, the evenings seemed to be the most active time. As stated before, if the water gets a bit murky due to rains, fall is a GREAT time to throw some streamers. Access is found throughout the Stroudsburg/East Stroudsburg corridor as well as at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve, Analomink.

Pocono Creek is running pretty low but the fish are still there—you just need to find them and present without spooking them. (Easier said than done!) Same variety of insects as the other streams. Some rain could certainly help out here, also. Access is found along Rt. 611 and at the Learn and Pocono Creek Nature Preserves.

Tributaries - Be very cautious if you fish these small waters. The spawning seasons are upon us and from now through December fish will be creating and protecting redds. Watch where you step!



Martins Creek is running just as low as the rest of our streams but the trout are active. A brown-green caddis is sizes #16-#18 should produce some topwater action with small nymphs providing strikes underneath. Access can be found above, through, and below the Bangor Borough limits. There is also some unposted water downstream above the town of Martins Creek.

Delaware River: Lots of fish in the upper Delaware. Be aware that the West Branch was severely dewatered due to repairs at or near the Connellsville Reservoir. We don't know yet what effect that has had. Remember to check the hatch chart in Don Baylor's guide before you go.

News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest

There are currently no proposed regulations or actions from **PAFBC** that directly affect waters in our area. However, it's a good idea to visit <https://www.fishandboat.com/Regulations/Pages/ProposedRecentRegulations.aspx> to see what is happening elsewhere throughout the state. Don't be shy about supporting something out of the area!

PA Legislative News:

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

November 15, 2020: General Meeting. A guided walk along Tank Creek at the Fieldstone Farm Preserve, Devil's Hole Rd. Meet in the parking lot at 1 PM. Please bring a mask and an orange vest.

November 16, 2020: Brodhead Fly Tyers

December 3, 2020: Board of Directors Meeting

December 13, 2020: Meeting on-site to tour the Cherry Creek improvement projects. At CVNWR. More details to come. Watch for the weekly BTU updates and the upcoming newsletters for more details..

December 21, 2020: Brodhead Fly Tyers

Tentative 2021 Events

February 4: Board of Directors Meeting

February 10: General Membership Meeting. Pies and Flies

March 4: Board of Directors Meeting

March 28: General Membership Meeting. Presentation by Tim Flagler

April 8: Board of Directors Meeting

April 14: General Membership Meeting—Flybrary Construction

May 6: Board of Directors Meeting

May 12: Meeting on the Brodhead Creek—Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

June 9: Annual Picnic—Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

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-slit 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.

UPDATE: Initial sales of these boxes were brisk but we still have some left. These boxes would make a great holiday gift so make plans to get yours before they are gone.

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 = 273

Youth Members = 1

Total Chapter Members— 274

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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