

Streamside Asides



February 2021 The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 of Trout Unlimited

Meetings:

February 12, 2021—7 PM On-line General Membership Meeting. "Chop and Drop" by Luke Bobnar of the Western PA Conservancy

March 10, 2021: 7pm (TBD) General Membership Meeting: - Tim Flagler." What trout like to eat and how to imitate them"

April 14, 2021: General Membership Meeting—Flybraries. More info coming.

May 12, 2021: General Membership Meeting— On the Brodhead at BCHC

June 12, 2021: ANNUAL PICNIC at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve

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PFBC ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO 2021 TROUT SEASON & STOCKING OPERATIONS

At its quarterly meeting on January 25, 2021, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) announced changes to the opening of trout season and the trout stocking schedules. For the 2021 trout season **there will be only one** Statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day on Saturday, March 27, and a single Statewide Opening Day of trout season on **Saturday, April 3**. This schedule marks a departure from the previous schedules providing for regional and statewide dates. Additionally, Voluntary Youth Fishing Licenses purchased for the 2020 season remain valid and will be honored during the 2021 season.

Pre-season trout stocking will now begin on February 15, 2021.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to this change in the pre-season stocking schedule, all streams that are designated as [Stocked Trout Waters](#) will be closed to fishing when stocking begins on February 15. However, lakes, reservoirs, and ponds stocked with trout during the pre-season will be open to catch-and-release angling but no harvest may occur until Statewide Mentored Youth Day and Statewide Opening Day.

The full press release from PFBC can be found [here](#).

<https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/fish-and-boat-commission-details.aspx?newsid=360>

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The Home Pool

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Dear Members and Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed digging out last week. I know I didn't, but if you are looking for a distraction from shoveling please join us on Friday evening at 7:00 PM to enjoy Luke Bobnar from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy presenting on the "Chop and Drop" style of habitat improvement that may work on some of headwater and low gradient valley waters. It will be a digital meeting and I hope to see everyone there. After taking a hiatus in December in line with the increased restrictions, the Brodhead Fly Tyers will be meeting again on February 15 at 6:00 PM at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

There are some action items that are picking up steam in our state assembly, so watch your email for action alerts. If you don't already receive email from the chapter, but would like to be included so that you can receive these action alerts please contact us at brodheadchapter@gmail.com so that you can be included.

We are discussing how we are going to move forward as Covid slowly releases its grip on our society, and one item we are looking forward to is expanding our Service program to include not only veterans, but also first responders (fire service, medical, law enforcement). We plan on holding "Introduction to Fly Fishing" for veterans and first responders who are interested. We also see this as an opportunity to grow and diversify our membership since TU National is offering free one year membership to any first responder or military (active duty servicemen and women, reservists, veterans) who are interested. If you know a first responder or military that might be interested they can receive their free one year membership at https://gifts.tu.org/vsp_join.

Another opportunity for growth that we are looking at is through a partnership with the Girl Scouts of America with a program called Streamgirls. This is a science, technology, recreation, engineering, art, and math (STREAM) focused program for young women in the girl scouts centered around cold water conservation and fly fishing. If you think you might be interested or just want to learn more about being part of the Streamgirls initiative feel free to reach out to me.

Now all these things require resources, not just volunteer time, but also money. The programs I just mentioned along with our upcoming projects and programs like Trout in the Classroom, the habitat improvements to the Pomeroy Preserve on the McMichaels Creek and our improvement projects on the upper Paradise need to be funded and our primary fundraiser (spring banquet) has been disrupted for two years—we could use some help. So if you can and wish to give to the chapter please check out the "donate now" section of our webpage at <http://www.brodheadtu.org/donate/>, and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Even though I sound like a broken record, I need to remind everyone that the Brodhead Chapter is our Chapter and the strength of our Chapter is our volunteers. With that being said, we have several leadership positions currently open for new volunteer leaders. We are currently looking to fill the Youth Coordinator, Membership Chair and Event 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 ericrobertbaird@gmail.com or any of your Chapter leaders.

Eric

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

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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

New Members

We are pleased to welcome new member David Colbeth and Collen Tucker. David and Colleen, we look forward to working with you on our mission and if you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Renewing and Contributing Members

Thank-yous to those who have chosen to renew their memberships and contributed to TU's mission. Your efforts in supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated.

John	Fossett	William	Harley
Edward	Dull	Darel	Handley
Jeff	Kerstetter	Tim	Bond
David	Roy	Tom	Setler
Eric	Baird	Brad	Ace
Joseph	Seagraves	Ed	Bustos
Bill	Leonard	Warren	Ace
Stephan	van de Loecht	John	Lyman
Barbara	Smith	Jake	Cardillo
Robert	Labar		



join



Free 1-Year TU Memberships for First Responders

Are you a first responder? Fire Servicer? Law enfordement? Military? Is someone in your family? TU is offering free 1-year memberships to those who serve our communities and our country in these capacities. If you or a family member is interested, please [follow this link](https://www.tu.org/conservation/outreach-education/trout-unlimited-service-partnership/) for more information.

<https://www.tu.org/conservation/outreach-education/trout-unlimited-service-partnership/>



News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest

New Comment Period Opening: On February 8, a comment period opened regarding additional listings or reclassifications to Wild Trout Waters and Class A Wild Trout Waters. As of press time, the lists had not been posted. Please visit <https://www.fishandboat.com/Regulations/Pages/ProposedRecentRegulations.aspx> to review this information. Comment period closes on March 10, 2021. Don't be shy about commenting !

PA Legislative News:

The 2021 Legislative Session is open and committees in both the House and Senate are up and running. If you want to keep track of bills coming up within the Environmental Resources and Energy Committees, here is the link for the [House](#). Here is the same information for [Game and Fisheries](#). **You may want to check out [HB 72](#)**. This bill could have significant ramifications regarding enactment of regulations designed to protect our water, land and air. On the Senate side, here are [ER&E](#) and [G&F](#) committee assignments and meeting schedules.

PA House link: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/CteeInfo/StandingCommittees.cfm?CteeBody=H>

PA Senate link: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/CteeInfo/StandingCommittees.cfm?CteeBody=S>

For updates and explanations 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.

January Fishing Report



Brodhead Creek is a winter challenge. No change since last month! Don't be afraid to use woolly buggers with or without a bead head. Black, white, or green with some pink or red and some flash can produce some nice brown trout and stocked rainbows. Think sizes #8 or #10 but you can go bigger.



McMichaels Creek produced some nice trout throughout January. Nymphs like a Guide's Choice Hare's Ear in sizes #14-#16 dragged along the bottom can work wonders. Access is found within the Stroudsburg/East Stroudsburg corridor at various parks as Monroe County and Stroud Township parks.

Pocono Creek is running clear and cold. It may be a small stream but be ready to make some "distanced" casts. Small nymphs or streamers worked through the runs can be productive. Find a deep hole or root wad and swing a good-sized stream in that direction. Access is found along the Rt. 611 corridor.



Tributaries - Young of year fry may be coming out soon so watch where you step. Fishing can be loads of fun in these streams but access due to snow can be a bit of a challenge.

Martins Creek runs a bit warmer than most small streams in winter. BH nymphs and small streamers can be the ticket. Remember this is a "special" Class A stream that is stocked. As such, it is no-kill from Labor Day until the end of February* when it closes for a month. 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.

*Due to COVID-related schedule changes with PFBC stocking, the 2021 close is February 15, 2021.

Important Water Related Contacts



Below you will find contact phone numbers you may need if, as you hike, fish, or bike along our Pocono waters in Monroe County, you observe something of concern with the **waterway**. Save this page as a handy & quick reference and put the numbers in your contacts!

Event:

Contact:

Fishkill

PA DEP at 570-826-2511

PA Fish & Boat at 570-477-5717

Brodhead Watershed Assoc. at 570-839-1120

Soil Erosion/Stormwater Your Township or Borough Office

Monroe Cty. Cons. District at 570-629-3060

Brodhead Watershed Assoc. at 570-839-1120

Illegal dumping/activity Your Township or Borough Police Dept.

Monroe Cty. Cons. District at 570-629-3060

PA Fish & Boat at 570-477-5717

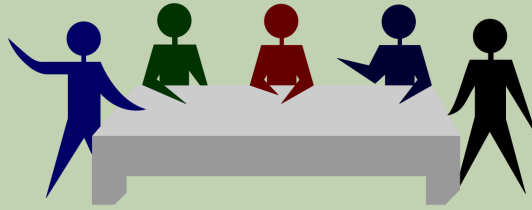
Brodhead Watershed Assoc. at 570-839-1120

Filling a Wetland

Your Township or Borough Office

Monroe Cty. Cons. District at 570-629-3060

PA DEP at 570-826-2511



Committee Updates

Brodhead TU has several active committees focused upon meeting the needs identified in our Strategic Plan. If you would like to volunteer to serve on one of these committees, please contact a Board member at your convenience. Below are brief descriptions of what each committee does and some actions they have recently undertaken.

Advocacy— Works to alert the membership of upcoming policy and/or legislative changes that can impact the cold-water resources in the Poconos, the state, and the nation. Provides information and recommendations regarding policy and legislation and encourages members to communicate with the appropriate departments and elected officials. Recent advocacy efforts focused upon identification of Class A and Wild Trout waters, multiple PA House & Senate bills, the Waters of the US Rule and funding for the Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund.

Diversity Initiative— Focuses upon strengthening the chapter by providing information and activities that will attract and retain members across the spectrum found within our communities. Please see the information on page eight for more detail.

Fundraising— Somewhere along the line, the chapter and every working committee needs financial resources to enact its plans and meet identified goals. The fundraising committee looks at developing and maintaining revenue streams sufficient to meet those financial needs. Activities include an annual banquet, meeting prizes, and sportswear and equipment sales. The chapter will be moving forward with an on-line donation program as well as a capital campaign focused on funding habitat work on McMichaels Creek within the Pomeroy Preserve.

Conservation— Probably our longest-running committee, this group works on stream or habitat improvement projects. The committee works with local conservation groups such as Pocono Heritage Land Trust, the Brodhead Watershed Association, Friends of Cherry Valley and local governing bodies to improve the existing cold-water resources to enhance the wild trout fisheries and the local environment. Recent projects can be seen on Pocono Creek in Tannersville, McMichaels Creek near the Monroe County Recreation Fields, and Cherry Creek in the Cherry Valley National Recreation Area. Upcoming projects include improvements in the Upper Paradise watershed tributaries (Tank Creek and Yankee Run) and work within the Pomeroy Preserve on McMichaels Creek.

Tree Planting— Technically a sub-committee of the Conservation Committee, this new group is focused upon identifying areas within our community that will benefit from tree plantings and enacting plans to put trees in the ground. These areas could be within existing forested areas where native species are being stressed to the point of dying off or in riparian buffer areas that need to be reinforced or expanded. Emphasis is placed on choosing species of trees that fit the ecological niche and will thrive in our changing climate well into the future. Developing working relationships with local governmental and conservation groups is a necessity.



Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup Update

Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Trichoptera - they're different, yet they're the same. Life cycles may differ, food source may differ, but they're all macroinvertebrates and share a common aquatic habitat. The diversity of a stream is one indicator of its health. Diversity is also an indicator of the health of our Trout Unlimited Chapters.

Diversity brings resilience to our organization as we strive to have a membership more reflective of the fly fishing community in general. It brings resonance of our mission, an influx of ideas and perspectives, it enriches and strengthens our chapters. That's why in 2017 Trout Unlimited formed its National Leadership Council led Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup (DI for short) whose mission is to "create effective strategies and programs to recruit a more diverse membership profile in TU; encourage diversity within leadership at the chapter, state and national levels; and to ensure every chapter creates a welcoming environment for TU members of different genders, ethnicities, ages, and cultures to achieve the TU conservation mission."

Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited is dedicated towards this mission and is committed to actively work towards the goals of the DI Workgroup on the chapter level, utilizing our Diversity Initiative Committee. We are equal opportunity conservationists.

Ann Foster
DI Committee Chair
Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited

We Need Your Financial Support for our Stream Restoration Campaign

The Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited needs your help to restore trout habitat in our Pocono streams

In 2022, Brodhead TU plans to start construction on a \$75,000 project to improve in-stream habitat on nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of McMichael's Creek. Located within the Pocono Heritage Land Trust's recently established Pomeroy Preserve, adjacent to Hickory Valley Park, this stream section is part of the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Keystone Select Trophy Trout/Delayed Harvest program and offers public access and year-round fishing opportunities.

As beautiful as this section of creek is, in-stream habitat is limited, and will benefit greatly from Brodhead TU's science-based habitat restoration work. The Chapter's past projects on the Brodhead Creek, Cherry Creek, McMichael's Creek and Pocono Creek resulted in improvements in the ability of trout to reproduce and flourish. This restoration project will do the same.



Scan the Code at Left with Your Smartphone to Donate to Our Campaign on Our Website or visit: brodheadtu.org/donate

Unfortunately, due to health and safety concerns accompanying the coronavirus pandemic, Brodhead TU has been unable to hold its annual banquet or other traditional fundraisers. Without these supporting events, our stream projects are in jeopardy and we need your help.

Please consider donating now to help us restore and enhance the fishery on McMichael's Creek.

Yes! I want donate \$ _____ to support the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited's work to restore trout habitat in the Poconos!

Send a check made payable to: Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited, PO Box 661, Tannersville, PA 18372
or donate online with a credit card at brodheadtu.org/donate



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to make my donation in memory of: _____

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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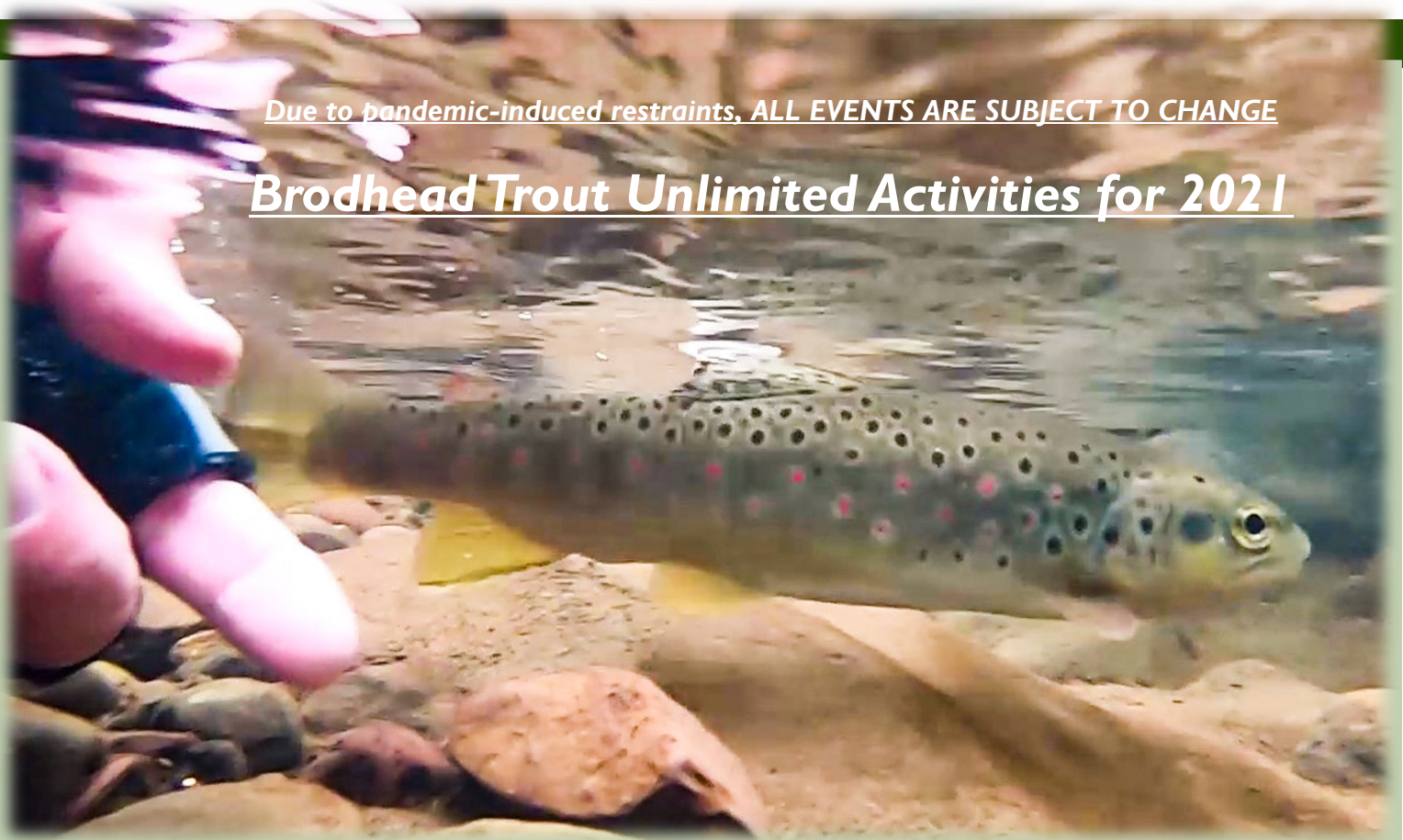
This space available to advertise your event or business. For information and rates, contact

Eric Baird @

(570) 355-0165.

Due to pandemic-induced restraints, ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2021



February 12: On-line General Membership Meeting. “Chop and Drop” presented by Luke Bobnar of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

March 4: Board of Directors Meeting

March 10 : 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

June 14, 2021: Brodhead Fly Tyers Meeting

Summer 2021 Chop and Drop Project(s)

July 2021: Veterans Service Fishing Program, Date TBA

July 12, 2021: Brodhead Fly Tyers Meeting

July 2021: Fly Fishing Program Conser. Camp TBA

August Veterans Service Fishing Program, Date TBA

August 16, 2021: Brodhead Fly Tyers

September Veterans Service Fishing Program Date TBA

September 9, 2021: General Meeting

September 20, 2021: Brodhead Fly Tyers

October 2021: TIC eggs arrive

October Veterans Service Fishing Program, Date TBA

October 14, 202: General Meeting

November 15, 2021: Brodhead Fly Tyers

November 18, 2021: General Meeting

December 9, 2021: General Meeting

December 20, 2021: Brodhead Fly Tyers

Trout Unlimited—Brodhead Chapter

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Tannersville, PA 18372



Serving the Pocono community since 1977.