

# Streamside Asides



April 2021

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 of Trout Unlimited

## Meetings:

**April 10, 2021: General Membership Meeting Workshop—Flybraries.**  
Brodhead Creek Heritage Center,  
10 AM



**Fly Fishing Film Tour thru April 4**

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

**June 12, 2021: ANNUAL PICNIC** at ForEvergreen Nature Preserve

**July—Sept, 2021: Stream Project Work**

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## Opening Day of Trout Season

**Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 8:00 AM**



It's almost here! The official state-wide opening of Pennsylvania's Trout Season is set for 8 AM on Saturday, April 3, 2021. Monroe County's streams and lakes, known for high quality fishing, are expected to welcome a host of anglers of all ages as they pursue brook, brown, rainbow and golden rainbow trout.

Opening Day provides opportunities for families, friends and fishing buddies to get outdoors and create new memories and, of course, share some questionable "fish stories". Whether it be at a traditional spot along the lake or creek, or in a newly discovered area, Opening Day can be a memorable experience.

BTU reminds anglers to be respectful of public and private property and to ensure that the lake or streamside area is clean and litter free when you leave. Public access to fishing opportunities on private land often depends on our being good stewards of the stream and surrounding property.

Enjoy this year's opener and here's to wishing you tight lines all day long.

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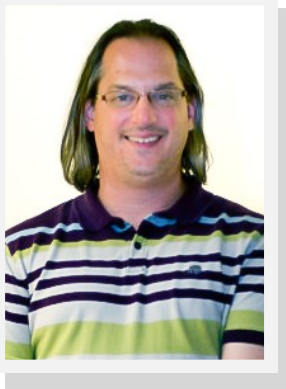
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## *The Home Pool*

Eric Baird, President  
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570-355-0165

Dear Members and Friends,

Don't let the recent snow fool you, spring is here. Crocuses are in full bloom, even up here on top of the mountain. I've seen the aspen and serviceberry blooms on my commute to work, which usually welcomes the quill Gordons. It also means we can slowly and carefully get back out and start seeing our friends again. One such opportunity is our April General Meeting on Saturday April 10 at 9 AM. If you feel comfortable joining us in building and installing some flybraries, we will be meeting at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

What is a flybrary you ask? A Flybrary is a small display stand for flies that we will hang at various public access points that has a sticker that bears the message "Have a fly, leave a fly. Need a fly, take a fly". It is a chance for the Chapter to expand our message to a larger audience and a neat idea for growing and solidifying our community of conservation minded anglers. If you don't feel comfortable joining us in person yet, you can always mail a donation of flies to the chapter or drop off your donation on that Saturday.

If you know any veterans or first responders that might be interested in our community of conservation minded anglers, they are eligible for a free one year membership at [https://gifts.tu.org/vsp\\_join](https://gifts.tu.org/vsp_join). We are also looking for volunteers that might be interested in starting a STREAM Girls program in conjunction with our local Girl Scout Troops. We have a couple of leadership positions that could be filled by members who want to increase their contribution to the Chapter. The Youth Coordinator, Membership Chair, and Event Coordinator positions are all open and if you are interested, please feel free to reach to me or any of our Chapter Leaders.

If you don't feel comfortable joining us in person yet, you can still help by donating to the Chapter. We can now accept credit card donations at the "donate now" section of our webpage at <http://www.brodheadtu.org/donate/>, and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Tight lines,

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 eight new members to Brodhead TU. We look forward to working with you on our mission and if you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Donald	Plantz	Lawrence	Zimic
R	Wilson	Michael	Scarano
Harold	Benner	Spencer	Tallada
Daniel	Carvajal	Benjamin	LeClair



join

### Renewing and Contributing Members

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

Wayne	Babcock	Chris	Hartzler	Michael	Peters
Eric	Baird	Russell	Hoch	Dennis	Purcell
Stephen	Bisher	Frank	Husarek	Tom	Rupp
Tim	Bond	Rich	Isphording	Frank	Russo
Kevin	Boutin	Lynne	Katz	Bob	Skazenski
Dino	Brocca	Steven	Killoran	Raymond	Squires
Charles	Cavanagh	William	Kresge	Rodney	Stark
William	Cleffi	Greg	Malaska	George	Talpas
H.	Connor	Frank	Martens	Donald	Thatcher
Jeff	Crawford	William	Martin	Craig	Todd
Adolph	Fernandez	Dan	Martinell	William	Toye
Tim	Fretz	Steven	Merchant	Stephan	van de Loecht
D.	Giffels	James	Mowers	Arie	VanWingerden
Matthew	Greco	Chris	Pessolano	Thomas	Whetstone



### Free 1-Year TU Memberships for First Responders

Are you a first responder? Fire Servicer? Law enforcement? 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](#) for more information.



## An Unhappy Anniversary

Generally, when one hears word of an anniversary, the news is happy and we celebrate a wonderful milestone or achievement with great joy. Birthdays, weddings, and graduations are just a few of the many reasons we mark and remember important dates. Unfortunately, not all anniversaries bring forth cherished memories. As we move into April, the Pocono Creek watershed marks the third anniversary of the March 31, 2018 nurdle spill into Sand Spring Run, a pristine headwater of Pocono Creek.

That night, an eastbound semi-truck hauling 39,000 pounds<sup>1</sup> of plastic nurdles became involved with other vehicles on Interstate 80, between the I-380 interchange and the eastbound rest area<sup>2</sup>. As a result, the truck careened through the guardrail and down the 200-foot embankment, where it overturned and came to a halt just yards from the creek. The bulk of the cardboard-boxed cargo, millions of multicolored plastic pellets called nurdles, spilled and flowed onto the hillside and into the creek. Thankfully, the driver escaped serious injury.

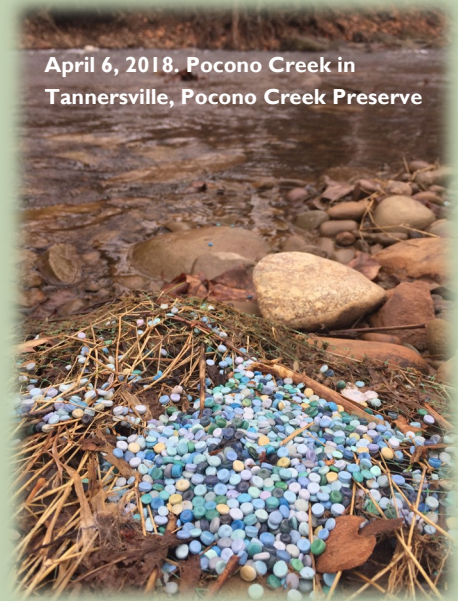
Pennsylvania State Police responded to the 9:30 PM call, and fire company and EMS dispatched within minutes. The State Police notified DEP of a fuel leak related to the accident and the cargo.<sup>3</sup> When the fire company arrived they reported material (nurdles) in the creek in addition to a small fuel spill on the bank. Prior to cleanup beginning on the site, several inches of snow fell and covered the area.

On April 1, a local fisherman, Allen Landheer, noticed the nurdles in the creek several miles downstream of the accident site. He made multiple calls to officials and also to BTU. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brodhead TU representative Todd Burns and Allen accompanied by the local Waterways Conservation Officer made their way to the spill area. Exploration of the site that day revealed a multitude of boxes of nurdles strewn along the bank, covered with freshly



April, 2018. Pocono Creek within the Learn Nature Preserve.

Photo by Ruesell Thrall, III.



April 6, 2018. Pocono Creek in Tannersville, Pocono Creek Preserve



Open box of nurdles on the hillside. April 2, 2018. (Glove for scale.)

fallen snow. The observ-

ers noted nurdles in Sand Spring Run, bobbing in the current eddies. Although there were pollution booms placed across the creek, the current easily moved the lightweight pellets underneath them.

The exact number or weight of nurdles spilled into the creek and moving downstream was and is unknown; however, thousands of pounds could not be accounted for on site. Schlier's Towing effectively cleaned up the crash area over more than a week; unfortunately, no one was required to clean up the waterway.





Whereas an extensive amount of small plastic pellets moved into this headwater stream, volunteers explored the downstream banks of Pocono Creek in Tannersville, searching for signs the nurdles had made the four-mile journey. Unfortunately, they had. Visual, on-site inspections near the Route 715 bridge and the George and Olive Learn Nature Preserve off Old Mill Road revealed streams of nurdles along the banks.

Brodhead Trout Unlimited (BTU) put out a call for volunteers and held a stream clean-up on April 15, 2018. Centered near the

upstream end of the Learn Preserve and around the Old Mill Road bridge, more than 80 individuals arrived to help clear this section of Pocono Creek of the plastic pellets. Those involved, some coming from as far away as Philadelphia and Connecticut, discovered just how hard it is removing pellets from the water and stream-side banks. Nonetheless, they collected multiple bags of the multicolored nurdles using netting, home-made seines and, yes, their bare hands. It was tire-some, dirty work. But these people responded because they cared.



*Photos from the April 15, 2018, nurdle cleanup along Pocono Creek in Tannersville.*

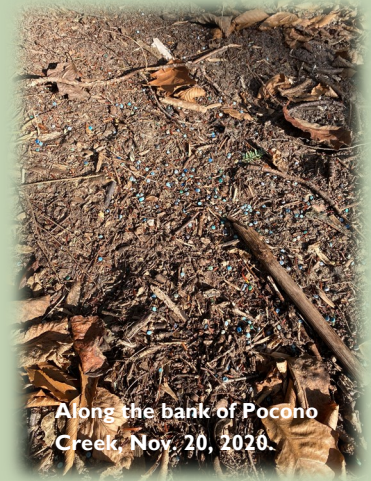




On May 14, 2018, Senator Mario Scavello held a post-event meeting of emergency responders, local and state government agencies and involved conservation groups. That meeting addressed the details of the incident, agency responses, inter-agency communications and a path forward. Due to the unique nature of the nurdles as cargo, much discussion occurred as to whether it was a pollution event or a dangerous spill.<sup>4</sup> Responses of agencies depended upon its classification. Moving forward, Senator Scavello said he would look at introducing legislation requiring appropriate packaging for transport of nurdles. Todd Burns, a BTU officer, contacted the Senator's office 1-2 years after the incident seeking information regarding any proposed legislation. The response he received indicated that there was little to no interest within the Pennsylvania legislature for pursuing such regulation.

In the years since the accident, hikers and fisherman routinely see the nurdles – many blue, some green, some pink- in the water or at the high-water mark on the Pocono's banks. Every time the water comes up, nurdles move downstream or farther onto land. Thus, the spill area gets larger and larger in size as time goes on. On November 20, 2020, more than 2 1/2 years after the spill occurred, BTU members observed and photographed a portion of the bank near Shaffer's Schoolhouse Road. The nurdles are still there.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, as these plastic pellets bounce around, they grind into each other and into stream-side rocks. Year after year of this activity will wear them into even smaller fragments called microplastics. These microplastics are even more difficult to remove from the environment, more easily transported and more easily ingested. Another set of problems.



**Bank of Pocono Creek, Nov. 2020**

Currently, industry is building plants in Pennsylvania to process natural gas into raw materials for plastics production. Within these facilities natural gas is separated into its component gases, one of which is ethane. This ethane is converted to ethylene and then polymerized into polyethylene. The form it leaves the plant? Little plastic pellets called—you guessed it—nurdles. When manufactured in Pennsylvania, they will be transported through Pennsylvania and, without proper, safe packaging, the events of March 31, 2018 can be repeated.

Sadly, plastic wastes in our riparian environments will last a long time, long after we are gone. And the problems they create will linger. As such, that event on a late March night, in a steep ravine in the Poconos, is an anniversary we will mark, but certainly not celebrate as we work to protect our cold-water resources.

*Footnotes:*

<sup>1</sup> Schlier's Towing reported at the May 14, 2018 meeting held by Senator Scavello that the load manifest indicated 39,000 lbs of cargo.

<sup>2</sup> Pennsylvania State Police reported at the May 14, 2018 meeting held by Senator Scavello that the accident occurred at/near mile marker 295.4.

<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania State Police reported at the May 14, 2018 meeting held by Senator Scavello that they notified DEP of a fuel leak and, later, identified the cargo material as plastic.

<sup>4</sup> Notes from BTU's representative's notes on May 14, 2018 do not indicate if consensus was reached on that question.

## F3T – Fly Fishing Film Tour Goes Virtual



The **15th annual Fly Fishing Film Tour** is streaming this March with a net full of amazing films. This year, don't miss some of the most exciting, story-driven official selections so epic you'll want to rig your rod right in the living room. The stories span the globe from the remote wilds of Eastern Russia to the Guyana rainforest, the flats of French Polynesia, and all the way to Utah's Flaming Gorge and the down-home waters of Wisconsin.

Tune in March 10 through **April 4, 2021** for unforgettable storytelling, camaraderie, premium free giveaways, swag, trips, and more. The F3T aims to inspire, feed your fishing addiction and build awareness for conservation efforts around the world, so join our community of like-minded anglers to celebrate 15 years of the largest fly fishing film event of its kind.

Get on-line tickets for this virtual event and help support conservation and Brodhead Trout Unlimited by clicking on the trout below. \$2 of every ticket sold through this portal comes back to BTU and helps support our conservation efforts. Follow the F3T on social @flyfishingfilmtour for more information and updates.

**CLICK HERE TO ORDER YOUR TICKETS**





## News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest

**Comment Period:** There are no new comment periods open that directly affect waters in our area. However, here is the link to the [PFBC Regulatory Changes](#) page so you can review other proposals.

### **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 (ERE) - there are a lot- here is the link for the [House](#). Here is the same information for [Game and Fisheries](#). On the Senate side, here are [ER&E](#) and [G&F](#) committee assignments and meeting schedules.

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. 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>

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 rule-making, anti-degradation measures and more.



## April 10, 2021 General Membership Workshop Meeting Flybrary Construction and Placements



On Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 10 AM, the April General Membership meeting will take place at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center in Analomink, PA. This meeting will be in the form of a workshop where attendees will construct “flybraries”. These outdoor repositories for flies will be constructed of a Bahama Blue fly mounting board affixed onto clear plexiglass. A label will be placed on the unit, (see image above for actual label) and the unit will be screwed onto a post at various public access fishing sites around Monroe County. Approximately 100 of these units will be assembled and distributed for use. After construction is completed, those participants who are available will begin mounting these devices at popular locations throughout the area.

Whereas COVID-19 immunizations are not complete and all restrictions are not lifted, work areas will be adequately spaced and masks are required. If you have work gloves, a cordless drill, and safety glasses, bring them along. If not, we will need folks to apply the stickers to the plexiglass. We'll find something for you to do!

When you go fishing at a flybrary equipped location, you are encouraged to leave a fly in the flybrary and, if you see something you like, take a fly. In this manner, we can share among the broader community of fly fishers who visit our Pocono waters and share in our passion for the sport.

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### Bio-Blitz Volunteers

Pocono Heritage Land Trust is holding a bioblitz on three preserves on Devils Hole Road (near Mt. Pocono, Monroe County) on April 24-25. The three preserves total about 500 acres and comprise a variety of habitat types. There are two headwater creeks, a stretch of the Upper Paradise Creek, vernal pools, wetland seeps, and mesic to dry rocky forest communities - a nice slice of what the Pocono Region has to offer naturalists. If you are interested in participating or volunteering your expertise, please RSVP to Matt Schultz ([mschultz@phlt.org](mailto:mschultz@phlt.org); 301-395-1244) and include your area of interest or expertise and the days you'll be coming (Sat, Sun or both).

# March-April Fishing Forecast



## Early Season Pocono Hatches:

When you hit the creek in April, you may find little brown stoneflies, blue duns, light brown caddis, quill gordons, hendricksons, grannom caddis and blue-winged olives. Follow this [link](#) for more information.

**Brodhead Creek** - The Brodhead receives a pre-season and several in-season stockings of trout in addition to the wild browns and rainbows present. Access can be found at multiple Stroud Township parks and PHLT properties. Access can be found from ForEvergreen Nature Preserve to Glen Park.

**McMichaels Creek** - Like the Brodhead, McMichaels receives an pre-season stocking and multiple in-season stockings. Access can be had at various Stroud and Hamilton Township parks and preserves. Don't go to the Keystone Select section without some heavier tippet!

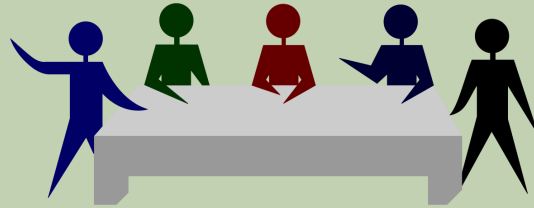
**Pocono Creek** - Due to the great natural reproduction, Pocono Creek is only stocked in one , downstream section near Stroudsburg. Access can be found in various spots throughout the Rte. 611 corridor.

**Martins Creek**— Is one of the dozen or so streams with Class A sections being stocked over with trout. Pre-season and in-season stocking occurs but the water is Catch and Release Only after Labor Day. Access can be found from Roseto to Martins Creek.

**Tobyhanna Lake**— Although it gets rather warm in the summer months this lake gets a good spring and winter stocking of trout. Deepest part of the lake is only about 10-11 feet so from shore you might only see a fishing depth of 4 to 6 feet. Plenty of room for some hungry trout. Access can be found off Rte. 423 at the park.

**Headwater Tributaries** - If you don't like crowds our headwater streams can provide lots of action and just as much elbow room! These little creeks are unstocked and the native and wild trout are wary. Don't splash when you wade or cast and you'll be fine.





## 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—** Advocacy alerts members of upcoming policy and/or legislative changes that can impact the cold-water resources in the Poconos, the state, and the nation. It also monitors and alerts members of local environmental issues. This newsletter revisits the March 31, 2018 plastic nurdle spill into the headwaters of Pocono Creek.

**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. Recent efforts involve folding our current veteran's initiatives into this area. This will provide greater flexibility in providing programming specific to needs of the community. Stay tuned as this is just getting underway.

**Fundraising—** The chapter's on-line donation program to fund habitat work on McMichaels Creek within the Pomeroy Preserve is underway. We will be meeting with representatives of the PA Fish & Boat Commission in early May to coordinate our plans and their expertise. Also, the chapter applied for a PFBC Cooperative Habitat Improvement Project (CHIP) grant and has been notified some funds will be available in 2022/2023. The committee will pursue a Trout Unlimited Embrace-A-Stream grant later this spring.

**Conservation—** This group works on stream or habitat improvement projects. Two new projects include improvements in the Upper Paradise watershed tributaries (Tank Creek and Yankee Run) and work within the Pomeroy Preserve on McMichaels Creek. Current plans are to use the Chop and Drop techniques to add woody material to the creeks to improve habitat for trout and macroinvertebrates. More details will be forthcoming as the plans progress.

**Tree Planting—** 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. The committee members visited potential planting sites on March 23rd (Polk Township—Middle Creek), March 25th (Tobyhanna—Tobyhanna Creek, Kistler Run), and March 27th (Pocono, Cherry and McMichaels Creeks). Once sites are selected, appropriate types of trees will be ordered and projects coordinated with the landowners. At that point, a call will go out for volunteers to get those trees in the ground.

# 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](http://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](http://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><b>Thomas R. Wilkins   CEO</b> <b>Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Wilkins &amp; Associates</b> <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 <a href="http://www.BHGwilkins.com">www.BHGwilkins.com</a></p>
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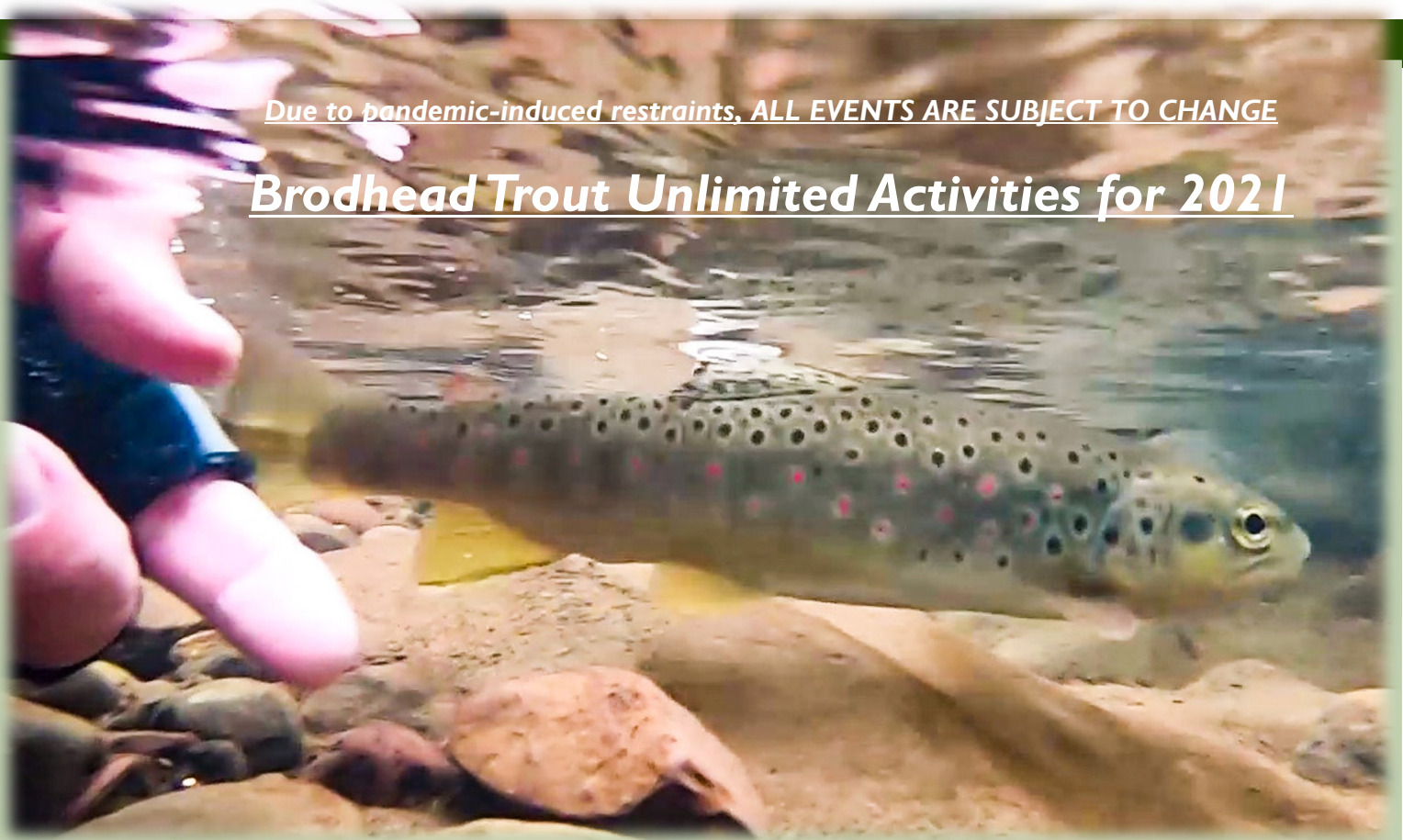
**This space available to advertise your event or business. For information and rates, contact**

**Eric Baird @**

**(570) 355-0165.**

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

## **Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2021**



**March 10—April 4:** F3T of Fly Fishing Film Tour. Link provided on page 4.

**April 1:** Board of Directors Meeting

**April 10:** General Membership Meeting—Flybrary Construction-Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

**May 6:** Board of Directors Meeting

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

**June 12:** 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 Monroe County Conservation 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