

Streamside Asides



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

Upcoming Events:

October 13: General Membership Meeting. Don Baylor presents "A History of the Brodhead Chapter." Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, 7 PM.

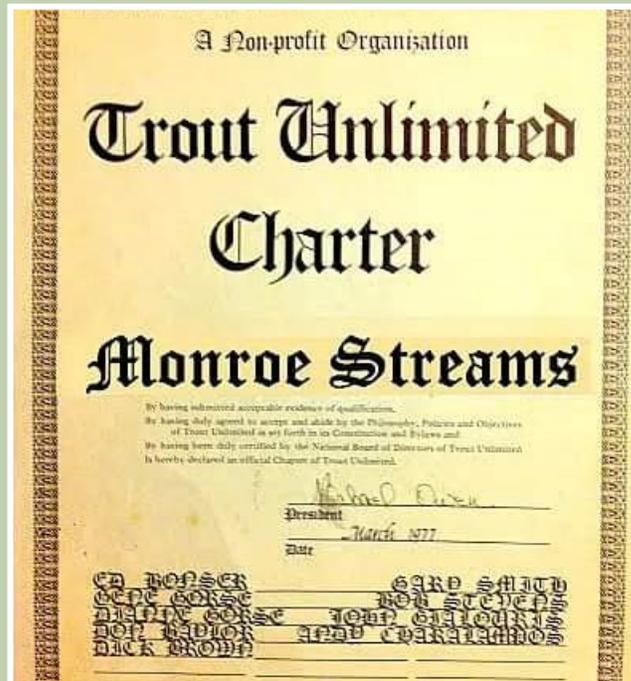
October 24: Introduction to Fly Fishing Seminar. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. 12:30 PM registration.

November 4: Board of Directors Meeting 7 PM
Brodhead Creek Heritage Ctr.

November 13: General Membership Meeting. A stream hike on the Pocono at Rail Gap Preserve, Shaffer's Schoolhouse Rd. 1 PM.

December 2: Board of Directors Meeting 7 PM
Brodhead Creek Heritage Ctr.

General Membership Meeting Wednesday, October 13, 7 PM "The History of the Brodhead Chapter" Presented by Don Baylor



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Don Baylor, charter member of the Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited, will present a program on the history and evolution of the chapter on Wednesday, October 13, at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center in Analomink, PA. The program will begin at 7 pm in the main gallery and social distancing will be accommodated.

Founded in 1977 as the Monroe Streams Chapter, the chapter has seen many changes over the years. Don was there to see the birth and evolution of the organization as the chapter grew in size and scope. His program will cover the growth and activities of the chapter in the 44 years since its inception. Whereas Don held multiple leadership and support roles with the organization, he will provide a unique, insiders look at the chapter's history. This is one you won't want to miss.

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The Home Pool

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Dear Members and Friends,

I'm slowly drying out after a damp but fun day at the Quiet Valley Harvest Festival on Sunday. It was good to see some members and friends turn-out and it was great to meet so many people from the community.

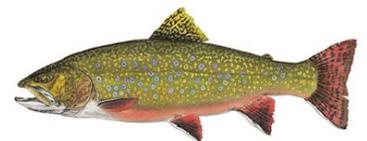
I'm now looking forward to our meeting on Wednesday October 13 at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. Don Baylor is presenting the "History of the Brodhead Chapter". I hope to see many of you there. As an extra bonus, Don's paintings are currently on display in the gallery. After the meeting, our next event is an Introduction to Fly Fishing class on Sunday, October 24.

I'd also like to make a public service announcement that trout spawning season is, or will be starting soon in our streams so please watch where you wade to avoid disturbing the next generation of trout.

As I've repeated throughout my tenure as president, this is our Chapter and if you are interested in helping shape your Chapter we have some leadership opportunities available. 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.

Eric



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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

We are pleased to welcome 8 new members to Brodhead TU this month. We look forward to working with you on our mission and projects. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Kaitlym	Bowdren	Savannah	Ibbetson
Ezriella	Brennon	Angelika	Piel
Shannon	Calhoun	Alexia	Piel
Scarlett	Estevez	Zoe	Piel



join

Renewing and Contributing Members

The chapter extends sincere 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. (A complete listing of donors to the McMichaels Habitat Improvement Project will be published in a future issue. We thank you for your support and patience.)

John	Brinker	Ronald	Otis
James	Connor	Francis	Pisko
Jeff	Feick	Ruth Ann	Rocchio
Fred	Freeman	Peter	Ruppert
Timothy	Fretz	Ronald	Seyford
Michael	Ilch	Bob	Skazenski
Larry	Laubach		

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.



Brodhead Chapter Tables at Quiet Valley Harvest Festival

Brodhead Chapter volunteers provided an informational and interactive station at Quiet Valley Historical Farm on October 9-10, 2021. Members provided information on our mission and projects, demonstrated fly-tying and fly casting, displayed historical fishing gear and provided a live “kick-sample” of macroinvertebrates from nearby McMichaels Creek.



Visitors to the booth were able to take home some printed information on the chapter and ask questions of those manning the table. Some worked with a fly rod and, as always, the macros were a hit with kids and adults alike producing many questions.

Thanks to those who stopped by and especially to our volunteers for helping to spread the word on cold-water conservation.



(Thanks to Eric Gusztaw for the photos on this page.)

BTU Volunteers Assist with Post-Improvement Electrofishing Survey on Cherry Creek

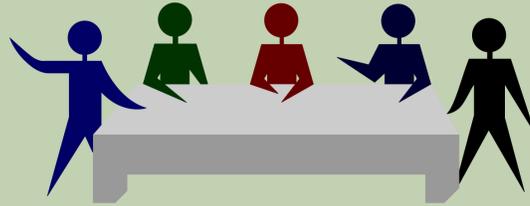


On Thursday, September 16, volunteers from the Brodhead Chapter assisted Aquatic Resources Consulting in conducting an electrofishing survey on the upper and lower sections of Cherry Creek within the headquarters tract of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The survey's purpose was to collect data in order to compare it to similar data obtained prior to the habitat improvement. Having both pre and post work data available, a determination can be made as to the benefit of the improvements.

The volunteers conducted two passes through each section and collected the trout for measurement of length and weight. After these data were recorded, the trout were released back into the creek. The data will be

fed into the appropriate equations and the results will be reported. Preliminary and anecdotal information shows little change in the downstream section but definite improvement in the upstream area. Once the final report is compiled, we'll be sure to publish the results. Stay tuned and many thanks to those who came out to help.





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. Legislation that heads through the House and Senate in Harrisburg has the potential to directly or indirectly affect the coldwater fisheries throughout the state. See pages 8 and 9 for more details. H.B. 1842 has been added.

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. In line with TU National's Harassment Policy, the Chapter continues advertising and providing a link for reporting of harassing activities. This is a vital step in creating and maintaining an atmosphere that welcomes all persons interested in BTU's activities.

Fundraising— Through the on-line auction and submitted donations, the chapter raised \$4165 in new funds for the McMichaels/Pomeroy project in addition to the \$12,000 already in-hand. BTU submitted its application for a TU Embrace-A-Stream grant and we believe we should receive at least \$7,000. BTU also applied for a PFBC Cooperative Habitat Improvement Project (CHIP) grant with the PFBC and they notified us we will receive \$5,600. Our current total raised for materials is \$28,765. Projected materials and labor costs for this phase of the project are \$43,965. The committee will continue to pursue grant opportunities and other fundraising activities.

Conservation— Pomeroy work plans await final funding and coordination with PFBC. The committee also is soliciting input for additional work sites in the future. Recent flooding has had a significant, negative impact on some of our past projects and it may be time to re-address those needs. Stay tuned as the ideas are coming quickly!

Tree Planting— Emphasis on projects along Middle Creek in Polk Township and Cherry Creek at the Josie Porter Farm continue. Committee members toured the Middle Creek site with representations from the Polk Township Recreation Committee with a follow-up meeting on 10/23. They are planning a similar meeting on 10/24 at the Josie Porter tract. Once plans are finalized, appropriate types of trees will be ordered. At that point, a call will go out for volunteers to get those trees in the ground!

News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest

Comment Period: Here is the link to the [PFBC Regulatory Changes](#) page so you can review these and other proposals and leave a comment. Your voice counts!

PA Legislative News:

The 2021 Legislative Session is back and running and committees in both the House and Senate are active. Bills of note:

1. [H.B. 1842](#). The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee voted this out of committee. The bill, a companion bill to S.B. 545 below, utilizes some of 545's language. Again, it would allow non-professional judgments on attempted clean-ups and seeks to tie pollution to only specific, numerical thresholds.
2. [H.B. 1144](#). This bill has passed the House and is now in Environmental Resources and Energy in the Senate. This bill would legalize the dumping of oil and gas drilling wastewater on gravel and paved roads. PSU has conducted two studies indicating such actions have detrimental effects on the environment.
3. [S.B. 545](#). Now back in the Appropriations Committee, this re-write of last session's failed S.B. 619, would allow polluters to determine if they should or should not report a spill. Existing law requires spills to be reported to DEP where trained professionals determine the severity and ecological impact of the spill. Seeks to tie pollution to only specific, numerical thresholds.
4. [S.B. 832](#). Would establish a new fund dedicated to water quality, specifically focused on mitigating "non-point" sources of pollution, such as agricultural runoff and acid mine drainage, that are diffuse throughout the landscape. Funding in the amount of \$250 million dollars would be appropriated from federal dollars allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

After reviewing these bills and their summaries, please contact your senator and relay your thoughts.

If you want to keep track of these and other bills coming up within the Environmental Resources and Energy Committees (ERE) 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. Be advised there are usually multiple bills being considered that could ultimately affect the quality of our streams and groundwater.

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:

Revisions to the Waters of the US (WOTUS) Rule: Important changes to the Waters of the US Rule will further protect our waterways. General information can be found [HERE](#).

TU's Chris Woods' WOTUS article is [HERE](#).

More information on issues can be found at these links:

<https://ww.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.

Harassment Reporting

As a member or volunteer, if you believe you are being harassed or if you have witnessed harassing behavior towards other volunteers, members or TU employees, you should report it immediately to Beverly Smith, bsmith@tu.org, Vice President for Volunteer Operations, or Julisa Edwards, jedwards@tu.org, TU General Counsel.

If, at anytime, you would feel it would be unreasonable to use this procedure to report harassment, TU encourages you to submit an anonymous and confidential report using the new Trout Unlimited Ethics hotline.

<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/68191/index.html> or call **1-844-896-9121**.

This “hot-button” link leads directly to the reporting hotline.



**Trout
Unlimited
Ethics
Hotline**

Fall Fishing Outlook



Spawning, Flooding and Post-Storm Fishing

Fall is upon us, the nights are cooler and the leaves are turning shades of orange, red and yellow. What a great time to be on the water! But as we head into this new season, please keep a few items in mind; for your safety and the trout's.

1. It is spawning season for our native brook and wild brown trout. They build their redds in the tail-out flats of pools and runs from now through early December. Please be careful with your wading (look for those "clean" oval patterns on the bottom) and don't target fish that are near the redds.
2. Recent floods have had some major impacts on our waterways (see pages). Be careful with your wading as new cuts, runs, and strainers have been created. What once was there, may not be now!
3. As the waters cool and the fishing heats up, don't forget those streamers in your fly box. Honestly, they work! And as the fall feed provides calories for trout to sustain them through the leaner winter months, they look for as many calories as possible. A weighted zonker or bugger run deep can produce some really nice fish.
4. Remember to keep 'em wet and release quickly.



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.



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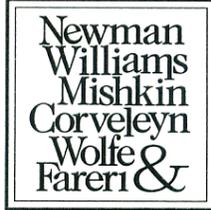
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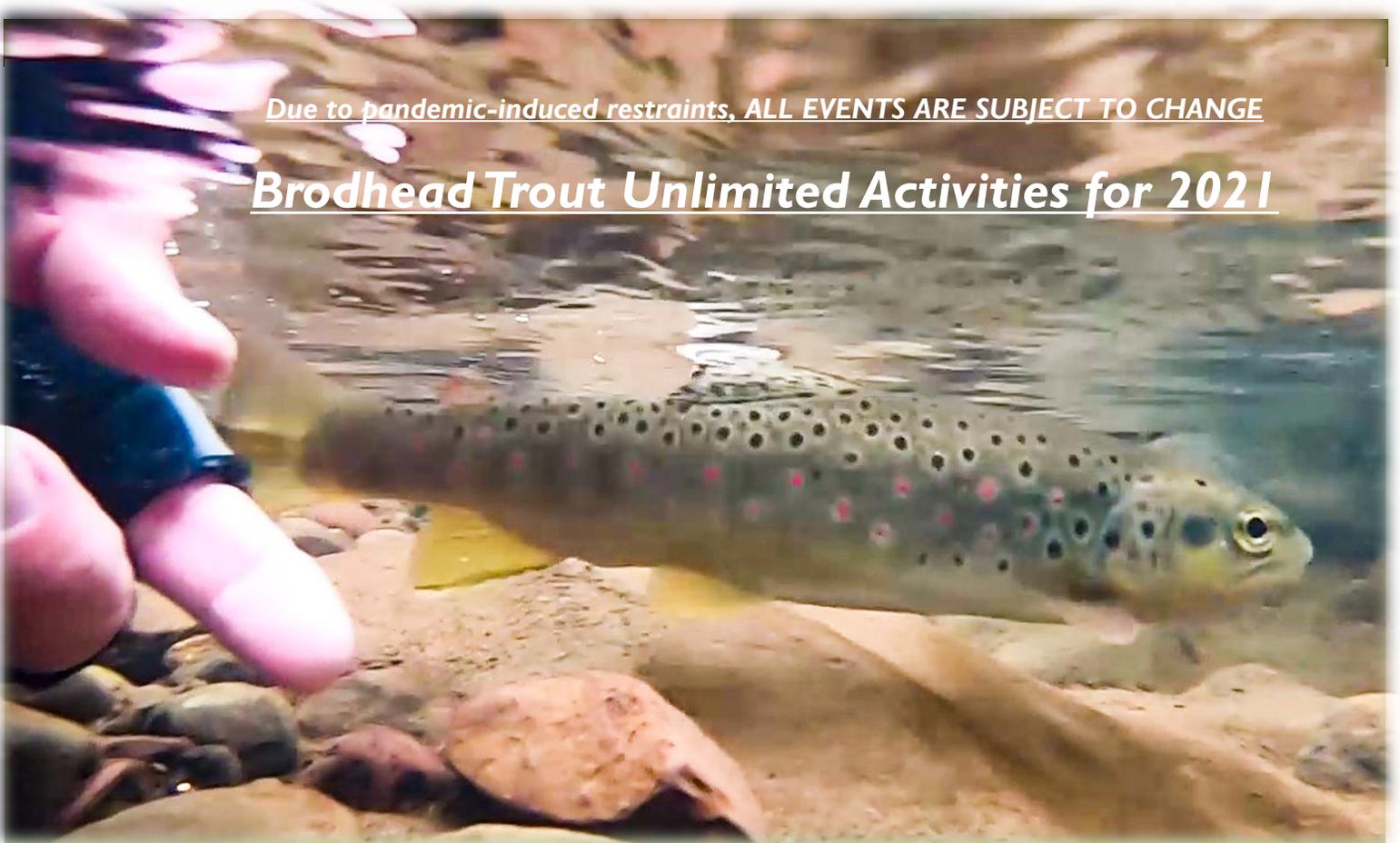
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Due to pandemic-induced restraints, ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2021



October 13, 2021: 7 PM General Meeting. “The History of the Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited” by Don Baylor. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

October 24, 2021: 1 PM. [Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop](#). Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, 12:30 PM registration.

November 13, 2021: 1 PM. General Meeting. A Walk on the Creek. Rail Gap Preserve, Shaffer’s Schoolhouse Rd. |

November 15, 2021: Brodhead Fly Tyers

December 9, 2021: General Meeting. TBD.

December 20, 2021: Brodhead Fly Tyers

February 2022: Fly tying classes. More details to come.

March 9, 2022: General Membership Meeting. Guest presenter: Tim Flagler