



# Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

December 2021



## Upcoming Events:

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

**December 9: General Membership Meeting 7 PM at**  
Brodhead Creek Heritage Ctr. :  
**Pies, Flies and Climate Change!**

**January 6, 2022: Board of Directors Meeting. 7 PM.**  
Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

**January 8,15,22 and Feb. 5,12,19: Intro to Fly tying classes. 9 AM** Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

**February 3, 2022: Board of Directors Meeting. 7 PM.**

**March 3, 2022: Board of Directors Meeting. 7 PM.**

**March 25, 2022: Annual Spring Banquet.** Stroudsmoor Country Inn.



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*May Your Holidays Be Filled With  
Peace, Love, Joy & Happiness*

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Arie VanWingerden



## *The Home Pool*

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570-355-0165

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone is having a safe and happy holiday season.

Some exciting news, the Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited Board of Directors has unanimously decided to hold our formerly annual banquet again on Friday, March 25, 2022 so consider this your "save the date" announcement. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

If you are looking for something to do, we are having our holiday celebration, Pies and Flies on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. Plus, we'll get a presentation on climate change. So please stop by, have some pizza, tie some flies, pick up on the recent research or just catch up with your chapter. We also have our monthly meeting of the Brodhead Fly Tyers on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. The theme for December is Royal Something so a chance to show off your favorite royal pattern, whether that is a Wulff, coachman, prince, king, or queen of something.

Would you like to have some input on our meetings in 2022? We will be having a scheduling meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have ideas for Chapter Meetings, or Chapter Events and would like to attend or just pass along your ideas, reach out to me or our Meeting Coordinator, Eric Gusztaw.

Not a fly tyer, but always wanted to be? The Chapter is holding an Introduction to Fly Tying Class in January and February. See page 12 for dates and how to register.

If you would like to help out with scheduling and running events, like the fly tying class, we are looking for an Event Coordinator. If you are interested in the position, reach out to me or any of our Chapter Leaders to express interest or find out more.

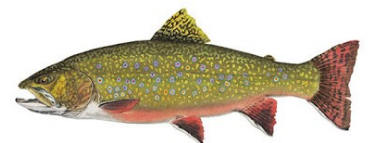
Some great news, we are within 10% of our fundraising goal for the habitat improvement project at the Pomeroy Preserve on the McMichael Creek. Thank you to everyone that has helped and donated.

In February we are going to have a Conservation Committee meeting to prioritize and create a rough time line for potential habitat improvement projects. If you might be interested in joining meeting or would just like to forward an idea, feel free to reach out to me.

Everything is quiet right now on the advocacy front as our legislators wind down for the holidays, but our Advocacy committee is ever vigilant looking for potential threats to our coldwater resources and looking for opportunities to support laws and policies that will protect or help restore our favorite streams and rivers. If you are interested in helping with our advocacy initiatives reach out to our advocacy chair, Todd Burns.

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 and Membership Chair positions are also open and if you are interested, please feel free to reach to me or any of our Chapter Leaders.

Eric





**General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday, December 9 to Include TU's  
National Leadership Council Climate Change  
Workgroup**

**“Climate Change: Science and Solutions”  
A Presentation by Dr. Benjamin de Foy, PhD.**

In addition to the traditional “Pies and Flies” (eat pizza, tie flies, tell stories) event on December 9 at 7 PM, the Chapter is privileged to be invited to sit in on a presentation by Dr. Benjamin de Foy, PhD. Dr. de Foy is the Banpu Chair in Sustainability and Professor of Atmospheric Science at St. Louis University. He will be presenting “Climate Change: Science and Solutions” to TU's National Leadership Council Climate Change Workgroup from 8-9 PM. And we will be there—virtually! Thank you to Board member Ann Foster for arranging this unique and valuable opportunity.

**Presentation Summary:**

Climate change is an extraordinary science, with no access to a lab other than the atmosphere we live in and without experiments other than what nature throws at us. It relies on detective work, patient observation of nature, cutting edge data analysis and massive computer models to progress. And yet, predictions have been remarkably robust and we are already seeing the impacts of climate change on the local level. Dr. de Foy will briefly give some examples of outstanding science and local implications.

Addressing climate change will touch many aspects of our lives. In particular, Dr. de Foy will emphasize the importance of looking for solutions that address multiple goals and have co-benefits in other fields. In the same way that climate change operates at different scales, our actions also need to work at multiple levels. We need to consider actions that we can do individually, actions that need to be taken at the societal levels, and also how our vision and goals have an impact on everything we do.

**Dr. de Foy's Bio:**

Benjamin de Foy uses computer modeling to analyze measurements of atmospheric chemistry in order to better understand sources of pollution. He is professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences in Saint Louis University. For his research he has studied mercury pollution in the Midwest and in Tibet; he has used inverse modeling to estimate sources of elemental carbon in East St. Louis; and he has participated in international field campaigns to improve Mexico City's air quality. He has taught classes on climate change, air pollution, meteorology and computer modeling. He has both a BA and a PhD in Engineering from Cambridge University, UK. He then worked in industry as an environmental consultant before joining the Mexico City project led by Dr. Mario Molina at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. You can find information about him on his website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/benjamin-de-foy/home>



## Proposed Changes to Mission Statement

At the November 2021 Board Meeting, the BTU Board voted to propose a new mission statement to incorporate into the existing Strategic Plan. This statement dovetails with the new, National mission statement and includes specific references to our children's future and bringing people together.



### **The current mission statement as included in the 2020-2025 strategic plan reads:**

To protect, reconnect, restore and sustain the cold-water fisheries of the Poconos.

### **The proposed mission statement would read:**

Our mission is to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover Pocono rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout.

We will continue to post the proposed language through February 2022 and will hold a vote on acceptance at an upcoming general membership meeting.

## Proposed Stocking of Hatchery Fish over Class A Trout Population

Currently, the position of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is to not stock, or have others stock, hatchery trout into a Class A trout waterway. There were originally 8 exceptions to this policy. Then, 4 more exceptions were granted bringing the total to 12. Now, another exception is under consideration.

Freeman Run is a Class A stream in Potter County. It contains over 12 miles of Class A water, with brook trout predominant in the uppermost section and brown trout the majority in the lower sections. The research is plentiful that stocking of hatchery fish into a wild and native fishery has deleterious effects on the waterway and



the fishery. PA Council of Trout Unlimited is against allowing another exemption to PFBC's existing policy. Brodhead TU's Board supports that position and is sending a letter urging the Commissioners to not grant the exemption that would permit stocking. The issue will be addressed at a PFBC committee meeting on January 5, 2022 and the full Board of Commissioners could have it on their agenda later in the month.

Currently, the closest Class A stream that has been granted an exception and is stocked is Martins Creek. Although Freeman Run is in Potter County, the process of granting exceptions is expanding and could affect more of the streams in our area. The Chapter is not in favor of such expansion. If you'd want to comment on this situation, you can send comments to:

Email: [yvgrier@pa.gov](mailto:yvgrier@pa.gov) (PFBC Executive Secretary)  
Mail: Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Via Ms. Yvonne Grier  
P.O. Box 67000  
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000

#### 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 two new members to Brodhead TU this month. We look forward to working with Duane Harper and Ron Larrimore on our mission and projects. Duane and Ron, if you have any questions, please reach out to us.

### Renewing and Contributing Members

It was another great month for renewals and contributions and the chapter extends a sincere thank-you to those who have chosen to renew memberships or contribute to TU's mission. Your efforts in supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated.



Josiah	Barnes	Jared	Klepacki
Dan	Baugess	Larry	Laubach
Kevin	Boutin	Robert	Lear
Ed	Bustos	Homer	Lee
Byron	Foster	Joel	Miller
Scott	Guerra	Ronald	Otis
Glenn	Hessler	William	Perry
Rayburn	Hudman	David	Roy
Rich	Isphording	Joseph	Talamini

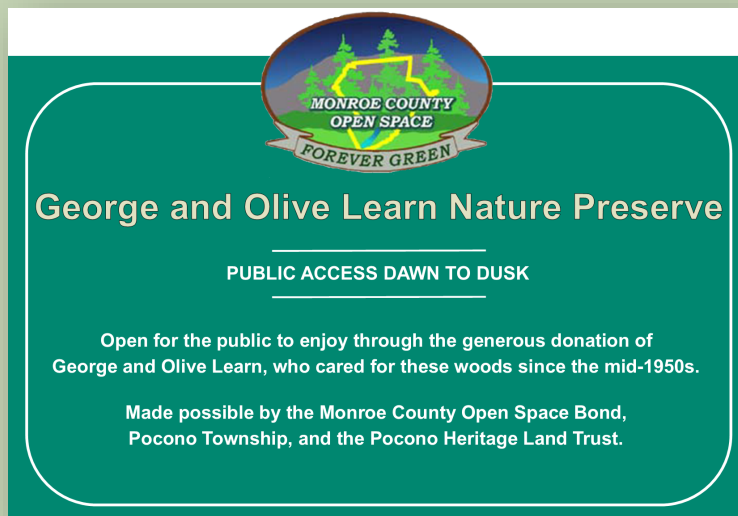
### Free 1-Year TU Memberships for First Responders

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.



## BTU Volunteers Build Informational Kiosk For The George and Olive Learn Nature Preserve

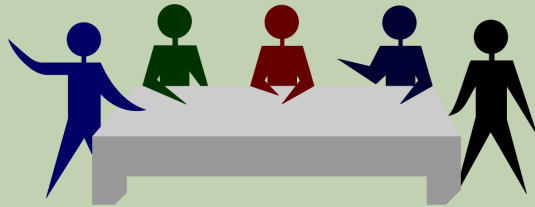
On Saturday, November 20, members of the Brodhead Chapter constructed the informational kiosk on the George and Olive Learn Nature Preserve off Old Mill Road in Tannersville. Thanks to Tim Fretz, Bill Brinker, Jack Fossett, Eric Baird, and Jim Houghton for all your work. Also thanks to Don Miller for helping with the plans and design work that led to the construction and to [F & F Paving](#) for their donation of stone. A highlight of the day, in addition to the construction, was the arrival of Olive Learn to check on the progress. It was great to see Olive and we can't wait to have her with us when the signage (see bottom left photo) arrives and we complete the project.



Mock-up of kiosk signage.







## 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 8-9) The Committee also looks at PFBC policies and proposed policy changes such as Class A listings and related activities. (See page 4)

**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—** After receiving the Embrace A Stream grant from TU and the CHIP grant from PFBC, the chapter had \$47,000 in cash and match toward the \$62,000 Pomeroy project (Phase I) on McMichaels Creek. Through the Embrace A Stream Challenge in November BTU raised an additional \$8,110. Since the Challenge's close, another \$1,150 has been received or promised putting the total raised for materials and labor to \$56,260. BTU will continue to pursue grant funding.

**Conservation—** Pomeroy work is planned for summer 2022 and members are beginning the work of locating, acquiring, and storing the timber needed for the devices. Contact with PFBC will occur prior to the end of the year in order to coordinate plans. BTU members built the informational kiosk on the George and Olive Learn Nature preserve and the signage is ordered. Once it arrives, the locking bulletin board, a flybray and the signage will be installed. The committee is also 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. Winter is a beautiful time to walk "your" stream and get some ideas.

**Tree Planting—** Committee members met with representatives of the Polk Township Parks and Recreation Committee at the end of October. As a result, the Chapter is forwarding proposed plans for tree and shrub plantings on the site. A follow-up meeting will occur after the holidays. At the Josie Porter Farm, the committee is looking at some invasive plant removal/native tree plantings in the riparian buffer zone and a problematic run-off area on the south side of the creek. The Committee is awaiting some run-off events to visit the site and evaluate and document the situation.

## 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 on recess until Monday, December 13. Committees in both the House and Senate have been active. Bills of note:

1. [H.B. 1842](#). Last amended on October 4, 2021, 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. **The bill was on the table in the House but removed on Nov. 17, 2021.**
2. [S.B. 545](#). Re-referred back to the Appropriations Committee on September 21, 2021, (As of 12/5/2021, it is not listed on-line as being in committee.) **No recent status change.** 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.
3. [H.B. 1144](#). This bill passed the House and is still in Environmental Resources and Energy in the Senate. **No recent status change.** 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.
4. [S.B. 832](#). Out of committee and given first consideration on Sept. 28, 2021. **At second consideration on Nov. 10, it was re-referred back to Appropriations Committee.** 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.
5. [H.B. 714](#). Presently sitting in **Environmental Resources and Energy since March 1**. Would provide for protection of existing riparian buffers and for restoration of impaired riparian buffers. **Would require 100' minimum buffer for standard waterways, 300' riparian buffer for EV and High Quality Waterways.** (Most of our favorite trout streams are EV and HQ)

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.



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

This Georgetown Law source provides a comprehensive overview of pending 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](#)

[PennFuture](#)

**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.

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## **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](mailto:bsmith@tu.org), Vice President for Volunteer Operations, or Julisa Edwards, [jedwards@tu.org](mailto: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.

**Trout  
Unlimited  
Ethics  
Hotline**

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

# Winter Fishing Outlook



It's December and shortly the first appreciable snowfall will occur in the Poconos. To many, that signals the "unofficial" start to our winter fishing opportunities. Water temps are down around 40 °F or lower and much of the spawning activity is finished. Trout coming out of the spawn will be looking to get some last minute calories to sustain them through the winter. Remember:

1. Recent floods (yes we had another) have had some major impacts on our waterways. Be careful with your wading as new cuts, runs, and strainers have been created. What once was there, may not be now!



2. As stated in prior editions, streamers can be a good winter pattern as fish need to conserve energy and get the most calories for their activity. A weighted zonker or bugger run deep can produce some really nice fish but often the strike is more of a sudden stop, unlike those October knuckle busters!



3. On the smaller side, trout are hungry in the winter months and they love to find a calm place to sip the little midges, larvae and nymphs that drift by. Sizes #16-#18-#20 can produce well.

4. Remember to keep 'em wet and release quickly.



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> Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Wilkins &amp; 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 <a href="http://www.BHGwilkins.com">www.BHGwilkins.com</a></p>
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**(570) 355-0165.**



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

## **Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2021-2022**

**December 9, 2021:** General Meeting. “Pies and Flies” and a sit-in on the TU National Leadership Council Climate Change Workgroup with a presentation by Dr. Benjamin de Foy, PhD. 7 PM. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

**December 20, 2021:** Brodhead Fly Tyers 6 PM @ Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. “Royal Somethings”

**January 6, 2022:** Board of Directors Meeting, 7 PM. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

**January 12, 2022:** General Membership Meeting, 7 PM. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

**January—February 2022:** Introduction to Fly Tying Classes. Jan. 8, 15, 22 & Feb. 5, 12, 19 at 9 AM at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. For additional information and registration, go [here](#) or use this handy QR code! ➡

**February 3, 2022:** Board of Directors Meeting, 7 PM. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

**March 3, 2022:** Board of Directors Meeting, 7 PM. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

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

**March 25, 2022:** Annual Spring Banquet. Stroudsmoor Country Inn. (Tentative)



QR code for the Introduction to Fly Tying Classes.