



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

January 2022



Upcoming Events:

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 9, 2022: Gen. Meeting—Tim Flagler presents: What Trout Like to Eat and Flies to Feed Them. 7 pm. *Details to come.*

March 19, 2022: Introduction to Fly Fishing. *Details to come.*

March 25, 2022: Annual Spring Banquet. *Tentative.*

April 23, 2022 Earth Day Activities. *Details to come.*

May 7, 2022: Annual Streamside Clean-Up. Tannersville, PA.

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A Time to Clean, A Time To Tie

As the winter weather moves into the Poconos, many of the trout fishing opportunities freeze-up, literally! And unless you decide to venture out onto the ice for some ice-fishing, this time of year provides the angler with the time to clean and sort gear and tie some flies.

Who doesn't have a vest or fly boxes that have been picked through, are out of order and have empty spots? When was the last time you cleaned out the bottom of those vest pockets? When was the last time you cleaned your fly line? (You have cleaned your lines, right?) Do your reels need cleaned and greased? How about your waders? They could probably use some deodorizing. Do you need new strings on your wading shoes? How do your rods look? Any nicks from errant bead-heads? Inspecting and cleaning your equipment during this down time can also be a valuable way to inventory what you have and what you may need...or want.

If you tie your own flies, then this is a great time to hit the bench and start filling those holes in your boxes. Its also a great time to try some new patterns. The internet is loaded with great how-to videos and our own Shorty Bartholomew posts "[Shorty On The Fly](#)" on YouTube. Check out his great videos, you may just get hooked.



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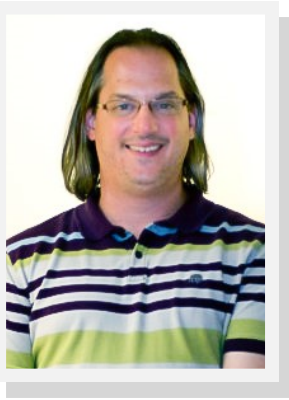
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The Home Pool

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Dear Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope everybody is as excited as I am about our Chapter moving forward. On December 15 several Chapter Members sat down to dinner at Barley Creek Brewing Company and laid out a tentative schedule of Chapter Activities for the upcoming year. We also welcomed a new leader to our Chapter in Ivers Keller. Ivers accepted the position of Events Coordinator and with some this leadership we discussed some fresh ideas for new Chapter events. Ivers is planning on organizing a Chapter Trip and we plan on holding a One-Fly Fishing Tournament this summer. If you are interested in helping plan and/or organizing those events or any other Chapter Events, let me know and I will get you in touch with Ivers.

Our monthly meeting of the Brodhead Fly Tyers on Monday January 17th at 6 PM. The theme for January is Bucktail Streamers.

We have an exciting schedule of speakers and activities planned for our General Meetings starting with Fly Tying Meeting in February and highlighted by Tim Flagler presenting in March.

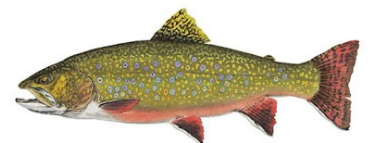
We are moving forward on several conservation and habitat improvement projects we hope to see come to fruition over the next several years. If you are interested in shaping the Chapter's path for future projects, we are going to have a Conservation Committee meeting in February to prioritize and create a rough time-line for potential habitat improvement projects. If you are interested in joining or 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 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 open and if you are interested, please feel free to reach to me or any of our Chapter Leaders.

Tight lies,

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 Wayne Kelly to Brodhead TU this month. We look forward to working with Wayne on our mission and projects. 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.



join

Eric	Baird	Martin	Gonzalez
Harold	Benner	Peter	Heller
Michael	Bobitka	David	Hildebrandt
William	Brinker	Jeff	Kerstetter
Todd	Burns	Bill	Leonard
Chris	Capurso	Glen A	Lippincott
Clair	Costenbader	David	Mengle
Edward	Dull	Robert	Poles
Papillon & Moyer	Excavating and Paving	Brett	Riegel
Tim	Fisher	David	Roy
Catherine	Folio	Donald	Thatcher

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.



Proposed Change to Mission Statement

At the November 2021 Board Meeting, the BTU Board voted to propose a revised 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:

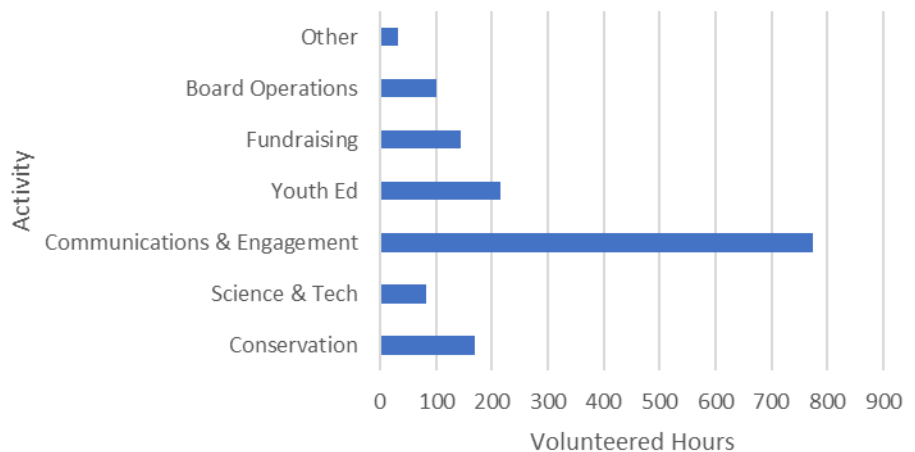
Our mission is to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover Pocono rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout.

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

Fiscal Year 2022 Volunteer Hours Adding Up

Trout Unlimited's fiscal year runs from April 1 through March 31 and Brodhead TU continuously logs the extent of volunteerism within the Chapter. At right is a graphical representation of the 1520 hours members have donated to date for 2022. With the pandemic still an issue and outdoor projects still in the planning stages, the Chapter has chosen to spend considerable amounts of energy in communicating and engaging with its members and friends. This is important as we look ahead to what the new calendar year has in store. A sincere thank you to all who have participated and assisted in our efforts!

Brodhead TU Volunteer Hours: Fiscal Year to Date

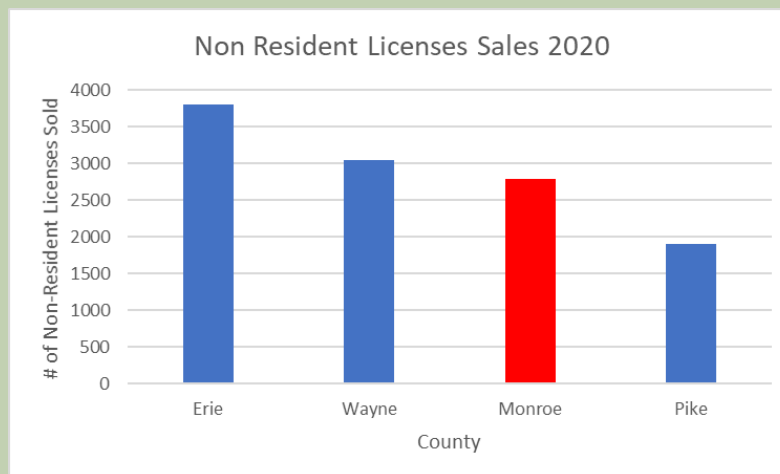
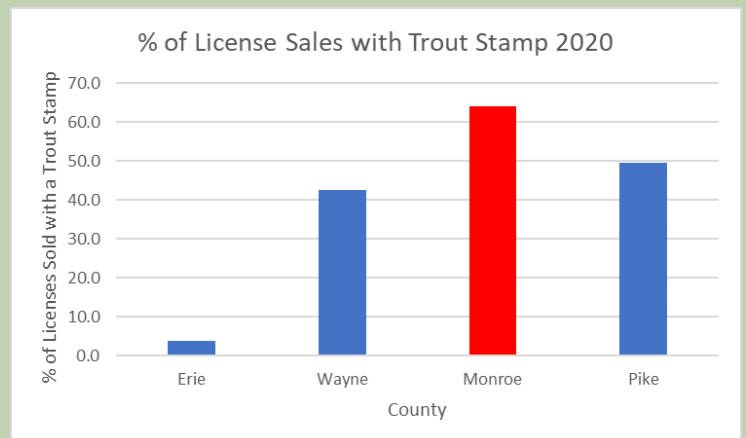
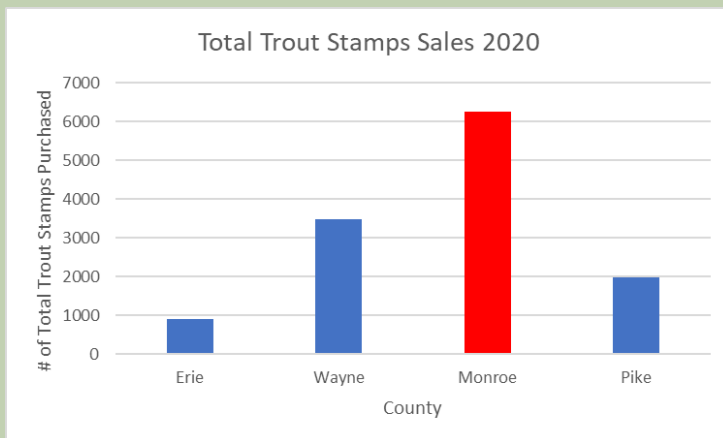


Monroe County Once Again Near Top in PA Fishing License and Trout Stamp Sales

Data from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for 2020 once again highlights the draw that fishing, and trout fishing in particular, has for Monroe County and the greater Pocono region. The table below shows the top four counties in the state for non-resident fishing licenses sold, total trout stamps sold and the percentage of license buyers who purchased trout stamps.

Erie County, well-known for its steelhead waters and Lake Erie*, leads the list in selling non-resident licenses for Pennsylvania. As you can see, Wayne, Monroe, and Pike counties placed 2,3 and 4 on the list. However, when one looks at total trout stamps sold, Monroe County is #1 on the list with Wayne and Pike counties not far behind. The take-away is obvious: Residents and visitors love to fish for trout in the Poconos. These data demonstrate what a vital resource our cold clean waters, our Pocono waters, are to this industry. That's why BTU dedicates its time to protecting these resources for all to enjoy, now and in the future.

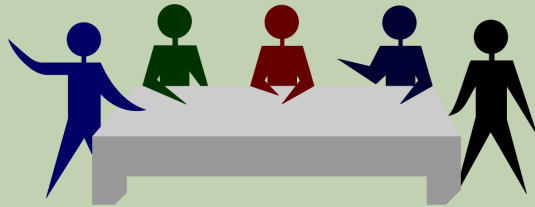
County	Licenses Sold	Non Resident Licenses sold	Trout Stamp sold	% Trout Stamp
Erie	23231	3800	905	3.9
Wayne	8219	3045	3495	42.5
Monroe	9766	2794	6257	64.1
Pike	3999	1904	1979	49.5



***An additional permit for fishing Lake Erie and tributaries is required and not included in these data.**

December Scenes Along Our Streams





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.** (**UPDATED**) The bill was on the table in the House, removed on Nov. 17, 2021, back to committee on Dec. 13, voted out of committee and **sent to the floor on Dec. 14 where it passed by a 108-95 roll-call vote.** The bill, a companion bill to S.B. 545 below, utilizes some of 545's language and is currently in the Senate ERE Committee. It would allow non-professional judgments on attempted clean-ups of potentially dangerous spills and seeks to tie pollution to only specific, numerical thresholds.
2. **S.B. 545.** Re-referred back to the Appropriations Committee on September 21, 2021, **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. (See H.B. 1842 above.)
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. A recent **PSU study** indicates such actions have detrimental effects on the environment and are not the best tools for the job.
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, 2021.** 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.

What's Up In PA Environmental Legislation

This link provides a broad overview of conservation and environmentally related legislation within the PA House of Representatives and the PA Senate. [PA LEGISLATION 2022 \(New Link\)](#)

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. We encourage you to visit: <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/>

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>

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.

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.

Trout
Unlimited
Ethics
Hotline

Winter Fishing Outlook



Hey, it's finally getting cold! Stream water temps are down around 40 °F or lower and spawning activity is finished. Winter fishing success can vary wildly upon several factors, some of which you can't control. But if you keep these items in mind, you may find you're a bit more successful than in the past.

Remember:

1. **Be patient** and **dress** for the fact you may be standing in 38 degree water for 2-3 hours! If you're not comfortable, you can't focus and have the necessary patience and it won't be an enjoyable day.
2. **Be accurate with your casts and fish those current seams** along slack water. Trout are active in winter. They just don't want to expend more calories catching something than they get from eating it. The more accurate your cast, the less trout need to move and the more likely you will get a strike.
3. **Be prepared to fish it all.** Fish will feed anywhere in the water column from the surface to the bottom: midges and small blue-winged olives on top to suspended nymphs to swimming baitfish along the bottom. But usually not on the same day! Trout could be sipping midges all day on Saturday and slowly nymphing 24 hours later. Things can change quickly. Same goes with spinning gear.
4. **Be a little "jiggly" with it.** With the cold water, the fish may need a little encouragement to strike. Add a bit of different motion. You don't need much, just a little jiggle or change of path will get their attention.

Good luck out there!

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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Eric Baird @

(570) 355-0165.

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

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2022

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!



QR code for the Introduction to Fly Tying Classes.

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 presents, "What Trout Like to Eat and Flies to Feed Them." 7 PM.

March 19, 2022: Introduction to Fly Fishing (workshop).

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

April 23, 2022: MCCD Earth Day Celebration. Hold the date!

May 7, 2022: Annual Streamside Clean Up. Tannersville PA.