



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

November 2022



Upcoming Events:

Nov. 9: Rod Building Class at
BCHC 6:30—9:00 PM.

November 12, 2022 at 1:00 PM
Hike – Pomeroy-McMichaels
Nature Preserve. Led by Don
Miller.

December TBD: Holiday get-
together.

January 7, 14, 21, 28 & Feb 4,
11: Introduction to fly-tying
classes

March 8 General
Membership Meeting

March 24 Annual Spring
Banquet at Stroudsmoor

March 25: Introduction to Fly
Fishing Workshop.



General Membership Meeting

Saturday, November 12, 2022 at 1:00 PM

Hike The Pomeroy-McMichaels Nature Preserve.

Come join us for a walk through Pocono Heritage Land Trust's Pomeroy-McMichaels Nature Preserve. You'll get to take a guided walk along the McMichaels Creek trail where the upcoming habitat improvement project will occur. After hearing a brief history of this important property from BTU member Don Miller, you'll also explore the meadow and forested areas where a myriad of different wildflower and trees species thrive.

We hope you can join us.

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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.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Eric Baird
267 3rd Street
Pocono Pines, PA 18350
(570) 355-0165

VICE PRESIDENT

Russell Thrall III
159 Swift Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 629-8010

SECRETARY

Todd Burns
311 Crestmont Street
Pen Argyl, PA 18072
610-704-4549
salmofisher7@gmail.com

TREASURER

Stephan van de Loecht
123 Keystone Rd.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302
treasurer@brodheadtu.onmicrosoft.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Don Baylor

Tim Fretz

Cathy Folio

Ann Foster

Eric Gusztaw

Jim Houghton

Glen Lippencott

Don Miller

Larry Ott

Arie VanWingerden



The Home Pool

Russell Thrall III, President
Brodhead Chapter — Trout Unlimited #289
e-mail: russ@thrall3.com
570-629-8010

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are able to join the chapter on Saturday, November 12 at 9 a.m. as we move our monthly meeting outside and visit the Pocono Heritage Land Trust (PHLT) Pomeroy McMichaels Creek Nature Preserve. Located at 675 Hickory Valley Road (Stroudsburg) just west of the Glenbrook Golf Course and Hickory Valley Park, the preserve has been the focus on the chapter's fundraising efforts for the past few years as we prepare for our upcoming habitat restoration project on the McMichaels.

The project, a continuation of our chapter's long-standing partnership with PHLT, also expands our partnership with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to include our efforts to improve trout habitat in publicly accessible streams. Partnerships are crucial for organizations like ours. PHLT has been an invaluable partner for the chapter for many years. Their numerous nature preserves protect several of our area's highest quality headwater streams. Our recent multi-year habitat project on the Pocono Creek in Tannersville included work on PHLT's Pocono Creek Nature Preserve as the adjacent George and Olive Learn Conservation Easement. Beyond stream habitat work, we regularly work together to promote both organizations' volunteer opportunities and outdoor activities. We have partnered with PFBC on fishing education programs for many years. Eric Baird, our vice-president, is a PFBC accredited fishing instructor, enabling us to receive loaner equipment and training materials from the Commission, market classes on the PFBC website and allow students to practice their newly acquired skills at the education events without needing a fishing license.

In August, we were awarded a Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) grant by the Commission to purchase new equipment that will enable the chapter to greatly expand our fishing education programs serving the Poconos. The Commission offered their assistance on our habitat improvement project at the Pomeroy Preserve early on during the planning process. They have been actively involved in planning the project with us and will help manage the on-site work to install the habitat improvement devices.

By joining us on November 12, you will get a chance to enjoy the creek-side walking trail system, see for yourself the current state of the McMichaels, and learn about the science behind habitat restoration and the benefits to wild trout that these partnerships can bring to our community.

I hope to see you there.

Russell

(Editors Note: See page 9 for the Pomeroy Project update.)

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DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Ed Filipkowski
2171 Wallace St.
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 424-1856

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

Brodhead TU welcomes two new members this month! A big thank you to Doug Deutsch and Darlene Farris-Labar for joining us in our efforts. If you have any questions, please let us know. We hope to see you soon!

Renewing and Contributing Members

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	John	Lyman
David	Bechtel	Frank	Martens
James	Bedford	Gary	Pysher
William	Brinker, Jr.	Stephen	Schroettinig
Todd	Burns	James	Sherratt
John	DeVivo	Walt	Shockency
Wayne	Kelly	Bob	Skazenski
Ed	Kepczynski	Rodney	Stark
Barry	Kwasny	Judith	Thompson
Gregory	Latsko	Billy	Tracy
Joan	Loveless		

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.

Current Membership:

304 Adults + 9 Youth



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Electrofishing Demonstration At Cherry Valley

On Saturday, October 8, members of Brodhead Trout Unlimited conducted an electrofishing demonstration on Cherry Creek within the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. As part of the activities for the Friends of Cherry Valley Fall Festival, Don Baylor, Chris Hartzler and Todd Burns surveyed a small section between the

two pedestrian footbridges. The team demonstrated the collection and identification of various species and explained how an actual survey works. The demonstration produced wild brown trout, various forage fish and a plethora of American Eels.



Thanks to the Friends of Cherry Valley and the US Fish & Wildlife Service for organizing the event and for inviting the chapter to participate. We're always glad to help.



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Riparian Buffer Planting In Polk Township

Volunteers from Brodhead TU, the Master Watershed Stewards and Polk Township performed a riparian buffer planting along Middle Creek in Polk Township on October 22. Located within the Walking Park, the group planted 100 trees and shrubs along the stream bank and into the adjacent grassy field. This planting will help stabilize the stream bank to prevent further erosion and

will provide cooling shade on Middle Creek (a wild trout stream). It was a beautiful day to get outside and work and the Chapter extends its thanks to Polk Township and all the volunteers who participated in this worthwhile project.



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Rod-Builders Make Progress

The five members of the 2022 rod-building class are 3/4 of the way through their task and making great strides. This year's rod is a 7' 6", 4-weight, 4-piece fiberglass fly rod. The olive colored blank, with black guides and olive thread, is a "sweet" rod in the making. Class will finish up this week and we hope to post photos of "first-fish" and finished products in next month's newsletter.



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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.



Coolbaugh Township “Warehouse” Proposal Exemption Denied.

Read the recent [letter to the editor](#) regarding the Coolbaugh Township’s Zoning Hearing Board’s decision regarding a proposed warehouse development in the township. The author, Donna Kohut, chairs the Our Pocono Waters advisory board on which Brodhead TU members sit.

Camp Trexler

The Minsi Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America is engaged in discussions to sell their 900+ acre Camp Trexler near Jonas, PA. This beautiful wooded area produces the headwaters of Middle Creek, a wild trout stream in which Brodhead TU will soon undertake a riparian buffer project in Polk Township. If the camp is sold for development, the headwaters of Middle Creek will be susceptible to significant degradation and not available for public use. One local group looking to purchase the property and protect it from development and provide for public access is the Pocono Heritage Land Trust. If you would like to see this land, and the Middle Creek, preserved for future generations, you can contact richardd.christ@scouting.org and let the Council know the importance of preserving this land.

BTU Position Statement on Distribution Centers/Warehouse Construction

Currently, preliminary plans or discussions are being carried out concerning the construction of massive distribution centers throughout the greater Pocono region. Projects are being considered and are in various stages of planning, review, comment and hearings. Several of these are in the Pocono Creek corridor in Pocono Township and also in Coolbaugh Township along Tobyhanna Creek.

Brodhead Trout Unlimited understands warehouse development will occur, and it believes that such development must be done in areas that do not impact the absorption, retention, filtration and free movement of rain water and other precipitation near cold-water resources. It should not reduce the size or quality of wetlands, provide damaging thermal and/or saline stress due to runoff, or cause increased siltation in our streams. The cold, clean trout waters for which the Poconos is known should not be degraded and BTU is willing to work with residents and local governments to achieve this goal.

What's Up In PA Environmental Legislation

This link provides a broad overview of conservation and environmentally related news stories that affect PA. [Conservation Leadership 2022](#)

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:

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.

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**

Pomeroy-McMichaels Project Update

The McMichaels Creek habitat improvement project within the Pomeroy-McMichaels Nature Preserve is currently in the permit approval stage. BTU has secured funding adequate to complete Phase I and is continuing efforts to fund Phase II. As part of the project, Aquatic Resources Consulting conducted an electrofishing survey. Excerpts from their report are found below.

ELECTROFISHING RESULTS FOR MCMICHAEL CREEK ON THE POMEROY

On October 8, 2022, at the request of Brodhead Trout Unlimited, Aquatic Resource Consulting (ARC) Biologists Don Baylor and Chris Hartzler conducted an electrofishing survey of a section of McMichael Creek on the Pomeroy Preserve. Assisting ARC on the survey was Todd Burns. The purpose of the study was to assess the trout population prior to habitat restoration to be conducted by Brodhead Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The stream section is excessively wide and lacking in diversity of depth, flow, and cover except for a few areas of cover consisting of boulders and woody debris along the stream banks.

The fish communities were sampled using a backpack Smith-Root electrofishing unit with a handheld probe and nets. Electrofishing is a sampling method. It is not possible to capture all fish with this method. A length of unblocked stream was sampled to determine fish assemblage. Trout were weighed and measured and released unharmed.

Too few trout were collected in one pass to warrant a subsequent pass to estimate total biomass of trout collected. Other fish species were identified and rated as abundant, common, or rare. Electrofishing was conducted in a zig-zag pattern in the wide channel with an effort to hit the areas of cover along the stream banks.

A section of stream approximately 300 feet long and averaging 83 feet wide was sampled. The section was chosen where several habitat devices are planned for installation to provide an evaluation of effectiveness of the restoration when a post-construction survey is conducted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Four wild brown trout were sampled. those were found where the limited structure was found along the stream banks. The lengths and weights were as follows:

<u>Species</u>	LENGTH IN MILLIMETERS - INCHES	WEIGHT IN GRAMS - OUNCES
Brown Trout	115 - 4.5	15 - 0.5
Brown Trout	245 - 9.6	113 - 4.0
Brown Trout	221 - 8.7	94 - 3.3
Brown Trout	208 - 8.2	79 - 2.8

Although one pass with a backpack electrofishing unit was not efficient at collecting all trout in the wide channel of the targeted section of McMichael creek, the obvious dearth of trout was an indication of poor habitat. The poor pre-restoration trout population suggests that the planned habitat development has excellent prospects for increasing the trout population and greatly creating a much more viable fishery.

November Fishing Outlook



The leaves are down, some late summer weather is past us and we are headed to the winter season. But trout are active and feed year-round so don't let that deter you from heading outdoors to your favorite waterway.

Stream flows are still low and unless there is some consistent, steady precipitation, those flows will remain that way. However, with December being one of the "wettest" months of the year in the Poconos, there is hope for some replenishing rains.



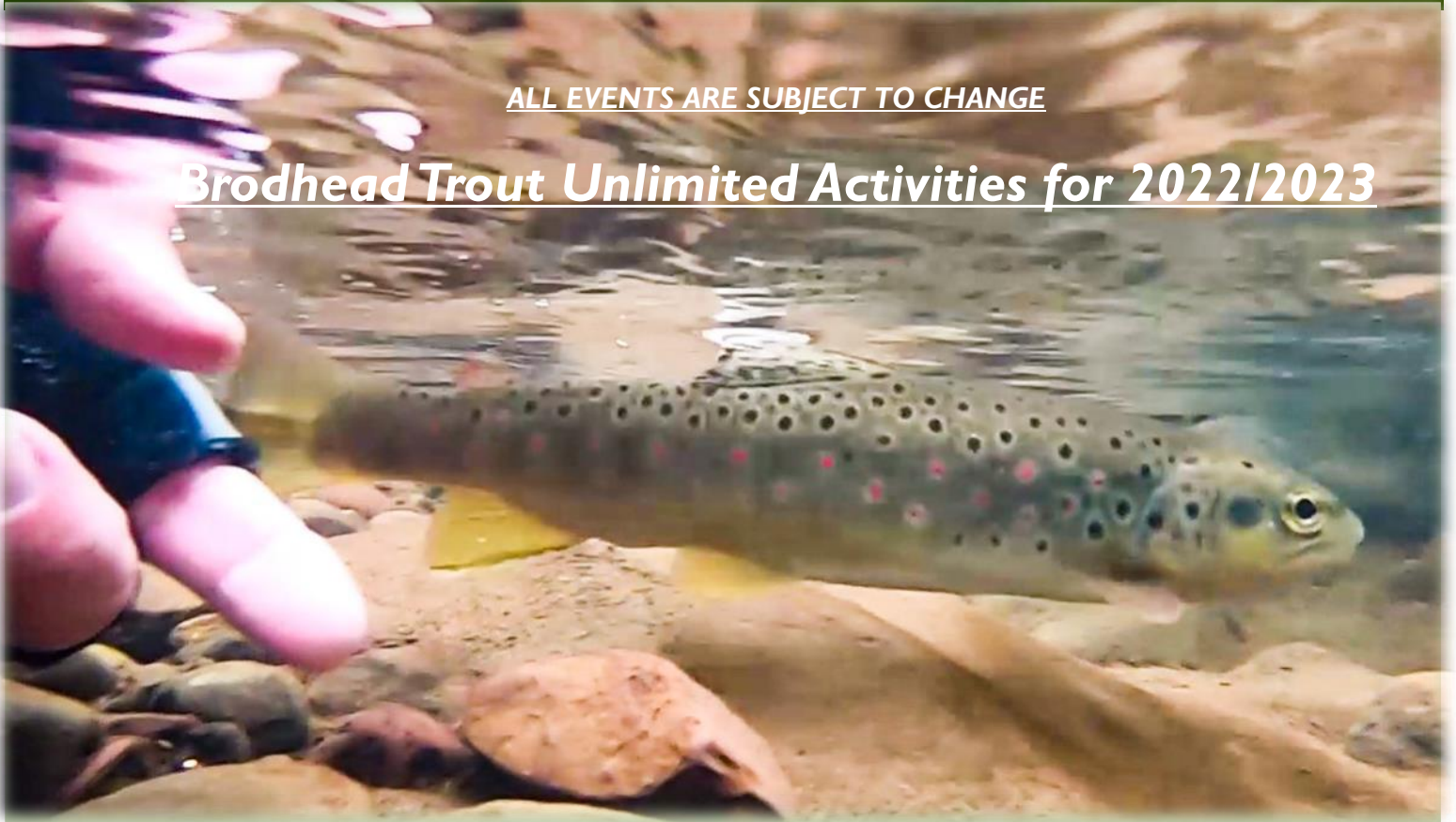
Wild browns and native brook trout spawned early this year, although we still have some active redd building. Continue to be careful, especially in those tailout areas. Post-spawn trout tend to be thin and a bit worn out but will be feeding up prior to the deep winter months. If you don't want to fish over wild fish, remember that several Pocono streams and lakes were stocked in October for the winter season. You can check the schedule [here](#).

We may get some small blue-winged olives (#18-#20) on overcast days and trout will be sipping those. Also expect to see some midges so it's good to have some on hand in a variety of colors in sizes #22-#24. Also a producer this time of year are little chironomid larvae patterns. (#18-#20) Believe it or not, we've found purple to be a producer. Who knew? And if you don't want to tie one of those teeny tinies on, chuck a streamer or try out your spinning gear. As we found out at our October meeting, it can be very productive.

Enjoy the transition to winter, be careful, and good luck!

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2022/2023



November 12, 2022 at 1:00 PM Hike – Pomeroy-McMichaels Nature Preserve.

December 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM Holiday Party – Location TBA

January 7, 14, 21, 28 & Feb 4, 11: Introduction to fly-tying classes

February 8: Pies and Flies at BCHC

March 8 General Membership Meeting

March 24 Annual Spring Banquet at Stroudsmoor

March 25: Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop.

April 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM John Maclean (virtual presentation) - KCEEC

Fly-Fishing the Next Step begins on May 2

May 10 at 6 PM: Meeting on the Brodhead Creek

June 10: Chapter Picnic at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center (BCHC)

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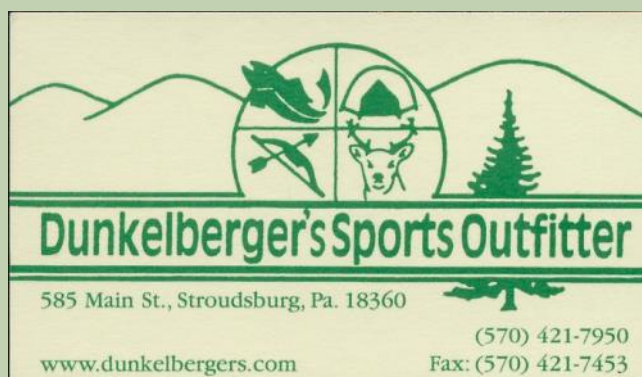
A sincere thank you is extended to the following supporters of our Chapter as we work to preserve and protect the cold-water resources in the Poconos.



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