



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

May 2023



Upcoming Events:

May 10: An Evening on the Brodhead, 6 PM, BCHC

June 3: White Haven Trout Festival 12:00—6:00 PM White Haven Public Library

June 10: Fly-Fisherman's Flea Market 9:00 AM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

June 10: Annual BTU Picnic 3:00 PM—? Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

July 26: Fly Fishing at MCCD Youth Camp 10:00 AM at Stony Acres

General Membership Meeting for May Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 6 PM

Brodhead Creek Heritage Center
1539 Cherry Lane Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301



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Our next general meeting is our annual meeting on the Brodhead! Come join us at the Forevergreen nature preserve for an evening of fly fishing the historic Brodhead followed by a small, bring your own BBQ and business meeting on the back deck of the Heritage center. Hope to see you for this awesome chapter tradition! Let us know you are coming by registering at <https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/General-Meeting-An-Evening-On-The-Brodhead-73523>

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

Russell Thrall III
159 Swift Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-620-8677

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

Ann Foster

TREASURER

Stephan van de Loecht
123 Keystone Rd.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

treasurer@brodheadtu.onmicrosoft.com

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Ivers Keller

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Larry Ott



The Home Pool

Russell Thrall III, President
Brodhead Chapter – Trout Unlimited #289

e-mail: russ@thrall3.com

570-620-8677

Members and Friends,

We finally got some much-needed rain at the end of April and into the first week of May. The lack of any serious snow melt and dry weather put Monroe County into a drought watch.

With the rain starting the last few days of April the stream flows were a bit a high for a few days, but as I write this on the first weekend of May, they are coming back down closer to normal levels. The USGS gauge on Pocono Creek is now down below 200 cfs and just above median levels.

The long dry stretch in April was good for getting outside and engaged in the many activities the Chapter had planned for the month. Thankfully, however, concerns about drought risk have, at least temporarily, been averted with the last week's rain.

You can check out the photos from the various chapter activities over the past few weeks on the pages of this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time at the events including Knights of Columbus kid's fishing contest at Brodhead Creek Park, the invasive plant removal work at the Larsen Tract of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, our annual stream cleanup in Tannersville (that was at the start of the multi-day downpour) along with Stroudsburg High School's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) release day on May 5 at the Cherry Valley refuge headquarters. Nearly 30 students participated in the TIC release and learned about macroinvertebrates, knot-tying, casting, fly-tying and more!

If you're free Wednesday, May 10, come out to the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center for our annual Meeting on the Creek for some fly fishing on the historic Brodhead behind the center and some time chatting with friends on the deck.

Tight lines,

Russell

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Gerry Bortz

Ed Filipkowski

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

We welcome new members Matthew Evans and Alexis Krukovsky to our chapter. We're glad you chose to join us in our work to preserve the coldwater resources throughout the Pocono region.

If you know someone who shares our passions and mission, please send them this link. Joining is only a few clicks away...



join

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.

Eric	Baird	Lukas	Medvecky
Ben	Batson	Donald	Miller
Donald	Baylor	Ira	Miller
Stephen	Bisher	Phyllis	Miller
Ed	Bustos	John	Moore
Richard	Carty	Vincent	Piancone
Bernie	Davis	Dennis	Purcell
Edward	Filipkowski	Raymond	Squires
D.	Giffels	Stephan	Van De Loecht
Bill	Leonard	Merton	Whitney
		David	Youngster

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PAST DIRECTORS FOR THEIR RECENT SERVICE:

James Connor

Tim Fritz

Jeff Heberley

Greg Malaska

John Smith

Daniel Steere

Arie VanWingerden

Tom Van Zandt

Free 1-Year TU Memberships for First Responders

Are you a first responder? Fire Service? 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:

303 Adults + 2 Youth



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Salt, Conductivity and Our Pocono Streams: Part II

Chloride effects on macro-invertebrates and other freshwater biota.



Last month we looked at the presence of chloride ions (Cl^-) in a Pocono stream (Swiftwater Creek) and its correlation with elevated specific conductance. Swiftwater Creek is just one of many Pocono area streams that encounter road crossings, nearby roadways and parking lots—all areas from which road salts and other contaminants can enter the waterway. This month, we'll begin to look at the potential effects of Cl^- ion concentrations on the macro-invertebrates, a major food source for our Pocono trout.

A 2015 study (Johnson *et al.*) examined the effects of brine salt (NaCl and CaCl_2) on the larval growth of *Neocloeon triangulifer*, a species of blue-winged olives (BWO). The results indicated that larval growth and development rates were reduced in salt concentrations above 363 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$. Additionally, survivorship was severely impaired when the specific conductance (electrical conductivity) was also elevated.

That same species of BWO was also utilized by Jackson and Funk (2018). In this study, they looked at the effects of temperature on the toxicity of elevated NaCl levels. They examined the responses of not only the BWOs (*Neocloeon triangulifer* and *Procloeon fragile*) but also a Cream Cahill (*Maccaffertium modestum*) and a Dark Quill (*Leptophlebia cupida*). They found the BWOs were the most sensitive and the Dark Quills the least sensitive to the elevated NaCl . Interestingly, they also found that for these species of mayflies, temperature played a role in the toxicity level. The colder the water the better for the macros in short-term exposure.

In addition to the direct effect NaCl and other salts may have on macro-invertebrate, work by Inamdar *et al.* (2022) found that extended road salt use in riparian zones can lead to increased ammonia production in the riparian soils. Elevated nitrogen levels such as ammonia (NH_4) can also have negative effects on stream health.

These three studies are just the tip of what may be an iceberg of research coming in future years. At this time, it appears highly elevated Cl^- levels can have a negative impact on macro-invertebrates growth and survival. As more focus and effort is directed into this area, more data will be come available and we'll have a more complete picture of what is happening in our streams.

Inamdar, S.P. *et al.* (2022) Saturated, suffocated, and salty human legacies produce hot spots of nitrogen in riparian zones. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences* 127 (12).

Jackson, J.K. and D.H. Funk (2018). Temperature affects acute mayfly response to elevated salinity: implication for toxicity of road de-icing salts. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 374 (1764).

Johnson, B.R., P.C. Weaver, C.T. Nietch, J.M. Lazorchak, K.A. Struewing, and D.H. Funk (2015). Elevated major ion concentration inhibit larval mayfly growth and development. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 34(1):167-172.

Upcoming Activities

Because you may want more information, some additional details for events through June are shown below.

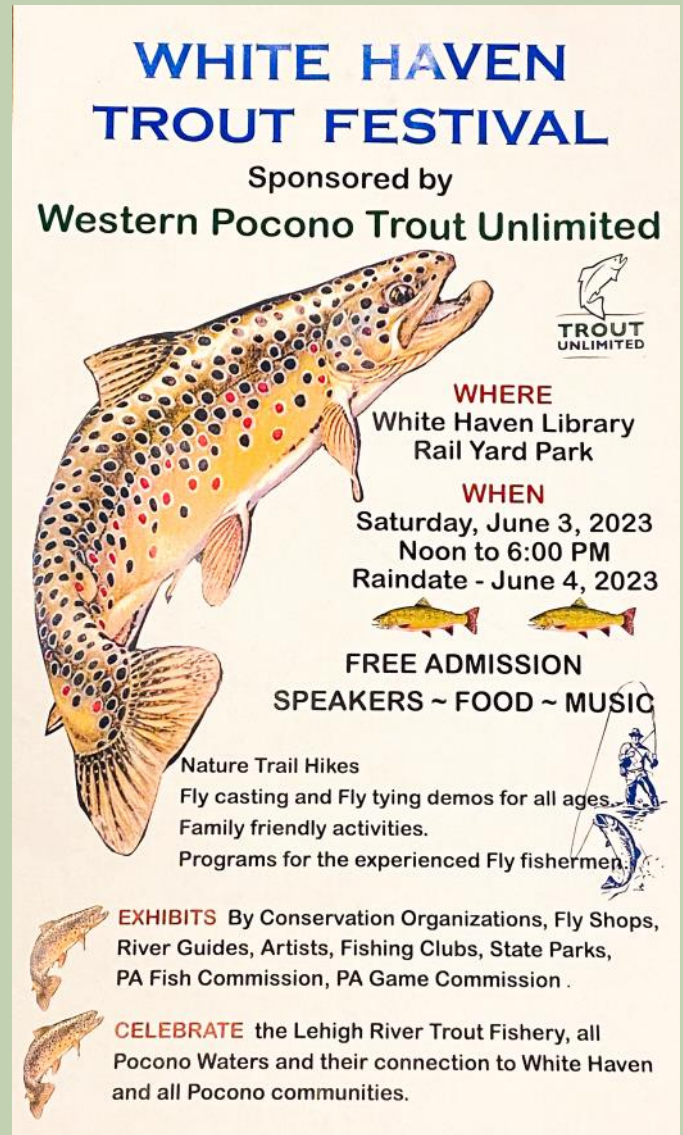
- On **May 10th** at 6 PM we **meet on the Brodhead to fish** the historic waters and walk in the footsteps (wader steps?) of some of the founders of the fly fishing community. Come and join us at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, Analomink, PA.

- **SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023. WHITE HAVEN TROUT FESTIVAL** Sponsored by **WESTERN POCONO TROUT UNLIMITED** at THE WHITE HAVEN LIBRARY AND RAILYARD PARK at 121 TOWANDA ST. , WHITE HAVEN, PA. **NOON to 6:00PM.**
Rain Date: Sunday, June 4.

FREE ADMISSION / NO REGISTRATION

The Lehigh River and its tributaries have long been an historic, cultural, economic and recreational focal point in the Poconos and Western Pocono TU is proud to sponsor this event that highlights the great trout fishery of the Lehigh River and its tributaries with the beautiful town of White Haven, Gateway to the Western Poconos. Over two dozen trout and nature related conservation groups, artists, crafts persons, fishing guides, and vendors will display exhibits, nature hikes and provide casting/fly tying demos throughout the day at the beautifully restored White Haven Library/Community Center with historic ties of its own as a former railroad engine house. An extensive food menu will be provided by the library with proceeds going to its children's library programs.

- June 10th brings us two events. In the morning (9 AM), we'll be running our **Fly Fisherman's Flea Market** at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. We offer used rods and reels along with fly tying materials, other gear, and books at very reduced prices. If you or someone you know is getting started, this is a great opportunity to pick up needed goods without breaking the bank. In the afternoon (3 PM), we'll be holding our **annual picnic** on the patio of BCHC. Bring a side dish or dessert and come join the fun.



**WHITE HAVEN
TROUT FESTIVAL**

Sponsored by
Western Pocono Trout Unlimited

WHERE
White Haven Library
Rail Yard Park

WHEN
Saturday, June 3, 2023
Noon to 6:00 PM
Raindate - June 4, 2023

**FREE ADMISSION
SPEAKERS ~ FOOD ~ MUSIC**

Nature Trail Hikes
Fly casting and Fly tying demos for all ages.
Family friendly activities.
Programs for the experienced Fly fishermen.

EXHIBITS By Conservation Organizations, Fly Shops, River Guides, Artists, Fishing Clubs, State Parks, PA Fish Commission, PA Game Commission .

CELEBRATE the Lehigh River Trout Fishery, all Pocono Waters and their connection to White Haven and all Pocono communities.

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Recent Chapter Activity

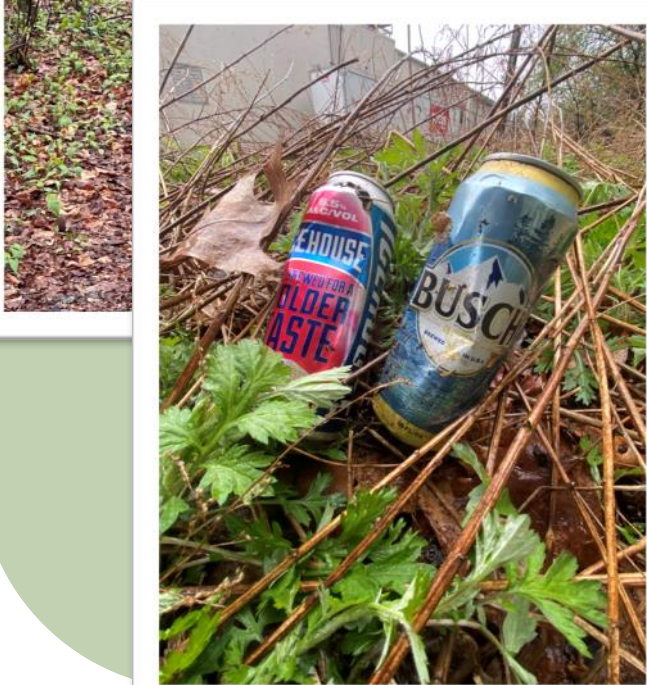
Invasive Plant Removal: On April 22, BTU members and friends gathered at the Larsen Tract of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge to continue removing invasive plants. This was the second visit to the site and good progress was made. However, there is still a great deal to do. The volunteers worked near Cherry Creek and on the adjacent, southern hillside. Thanks to all who participated.



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Streamside Cleanup: April 29th brought some rain but that didn't stop BTU volunteers from conducting the annual cleanup in Tannersville along Pocono Creek, Bisbing Run, and the Tannersville Woods Nature Preserve. Unfortunately, there was a good deal of trash to pick up and in the usual places: in Bisbing Run, across from the CVS, and behind Weis Markets. It certainly look better when the group was done so thanks for coming out in the rain and picking up.



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Recent Chapter Activity

Stroudsburg High School TIC Release Day. Brodhead TU volunteers assisted with Stroudsburg High School's Trout In the Classroom Release Day activities on May 5. The students released their trout into Cherry Creek and then rotated through various stations. US Fish and Wildlife Service employees led a macroinvertebrate session in and by the creek, member Don Miller conducted walking tours along the creek, Larry Ott led a fly-casting activity, Brian McDonnell and Lisa Ott had students learning to tie fishing knots and Todd Burns demonstrated some basic fly-tying. The feedback from the students, school and USFWS was positive and we hope to be back next year!



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News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest



BTU Position Statement on Distribution Centers/Warehouse Construction

Discussions are being carried out concerning the construction of distribution centers throughout the Pocono region. Proposed projects are in various stages of planning, review, comment and hearings in Coolbaugh Township, Tunkhannock Township and Pocono Township. Potentially affected streams and their associated wetlands and tributaries are Mud Pond Run, Pocono Creek and Tobyhanna Creek.

BTU 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.



No new information on the proposed Stadden Road campground;

NEW

Next meeting on the proposed Hawthorne Inn project is May 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Paradise Township building.

Camp Trexler

NEW

UPDATE #4. Bids are submitted for the purchase of Camp Trexler. Visit <https://www.phlt.org/> for additional information.



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

What's Up In PA Environmental Legislation

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://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

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

News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest



Pocono Creek pH Update

(Reposting of an Environmental Update)

On April 13, 2023, we emailed an alert concerning elevated pH levels in Pocono Creek. Not knowing the source or cause of this elevation, we asked our members and friends to be on the lookout for anything out of the ordinary on or along the creek. Since then, Brodhead Watershed Association stream watchers have continued to gather pH data not only on the main stem Pocono Creek, but also its tributaries. During this same period we received reports that nothing seemed amiss in the creek or with the resident wild brown trout.

The information gleaned from the stream watcher's data indicated the pH values changed with the time of day: a diurnal cycle. Values were consistently lowest in the morning and highest in the late afternoon. Feedback from staff at Stroud Water Research center and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, indicated the most probable cause of these fluctuations was photosynthetic activity in the creek. In-stream plants and algae utilize CO₂ during daylight hours in the photosynthetic process. This use of CO₂ decreases the amount of carbonic acid (H₂CO₃) in the water and results in an elevation of pH. (pH 7 is neutral, <7 is acidic and >7 is basic.) When the plants respire in the evening hours, the CO₂ is not absorbed by the plants, the carbonic acid level increases, and the pH drops and returns to normal.

At this time, it appears the elevated but transitory pH levels (~8.5) were due to naturally occurring processes in the stream with no harm to the resident trout populations.

We sincerely thank the Brodhead Watershed Association's stream watchers for their tireless efforts in gathering the necessary data. We also thank Daryl Pierce, Area Fisheries Manager for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, for responding to our inquiry and providing us with additional information. (See links below.) And we thank those of you who made it a point to check out "your" section of the creek!

This experience demonstrates how concerned citizens can observe an apparent anomaly, gather information, and converse with knowledgeable experts to determine if action is necessary.

Links for further reading:

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-07/parameter-factsheet_ph.pdf

<https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=62ZseR5HUdEC&oi=fnd&pg=PR6&dq=habitat+suitability+index++brown+trout+usfws&ots=CQ1CxZcESc&sig=ZlauWy-aVqsl0-zCPrsfugce2Ww#v=onepage&q=habitat%20suitability%20index%2020brown%20trout%20usfws&f=false>

May Fishing Outlook



It's May, day time temperatures are heading into the low 70s and the flood waters are receding. The recent high waters were the result of moderate to heavy rainfall over an extended period. Hopefully, this allowed the precipitation to soak into the ground and not simply run off. If so, the smaller streams should remain fishable for some time. Get out there and go fishing!

(A Pocono Creek brown trout caught on a #16 olive-brown caddis pattern.)

The May-June hatch cycle is a busy one. We have reports of tan and green caddis popping up in the late morning and early afternoon hours along with the grannom caddis. There may also be a few Hendrickson spinners hanging about and with the warm temperatures in the forecast, don't be surprised if this year's sulphur hatch is a week or two early. Last year, several Pocono streams experienced a quality *Cornuta* or Blue-Winged Olive hatch on May 21. Look for a rainy or drizzly overcast day from the third week of the month onward and head out in the morning hours. Our trout can really turn on when feeding on these insects. Other hatches to consider are March Browns and, later in the month, Light Cahills.

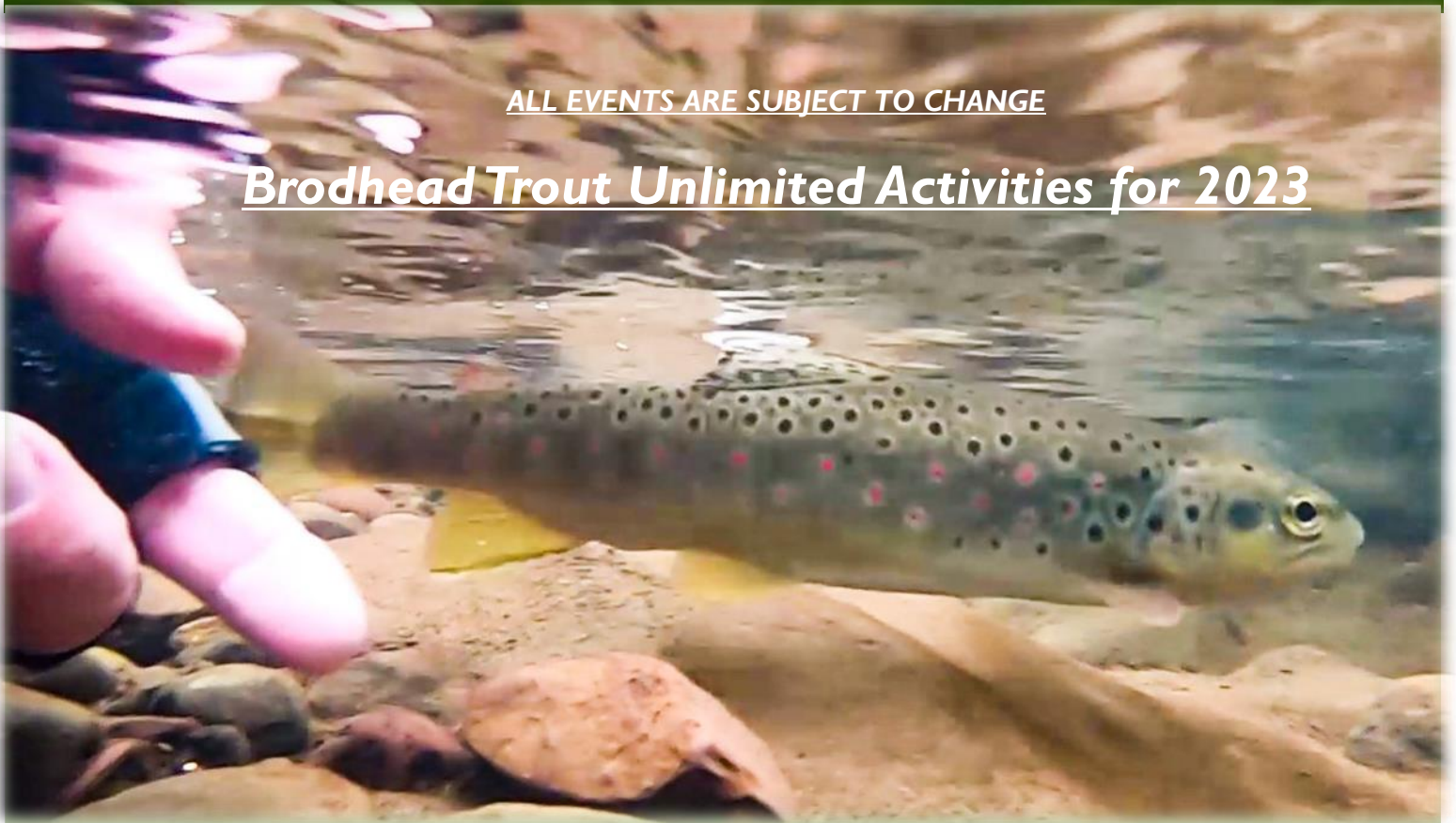
Of course, what would impending summer be without some golden stoneflies or Yellow Sallies flitting about and be sure to always carry some *Baetis* or smaller BWO nymphs. Trout love 'em.

These next few weeks will see lots of different insects in, on, and above the water and the fish will be feasting. Good luck and tight lines!

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ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2023



To register for any of these events, visit <http://brodheadtu.org/events-and-registration/>

May 10: General Membership Meeting. **An Evening on the Brodhead.** Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. 6 PM

June 3: **White Haven Trout Festival** sponsored by **Western Pocono TU.** 12:00 PM—6:00 PM. White Haven Public Library.

June 10: **Fly Fisherman Yard Sale.** 9 AM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

June 10: **Annual Chapter Picnic.** 3 PM. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.

July 26: **Monroe County Conservation District Summer Youth Camp Demonstration.** Stony Acres. 10:00 AM.

August: **3rd Annual Summer Slam On-line Auction**

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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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