



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

December 2023



Upcoming Events:

December 13: Holiday Party.

The Lakeside, Saylorsburg, PA. 6:30 PM

January 6: First session of Introduction to Fly tying.

Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. 9 AM.

January 10: General Public Meeting—VIRTUAL: Shorty on the Fly—Details to come.

February 7: General Public Meeting, Fly Tying at 7 PM at BCHC, Pies and Flies

March 13: General Public Meeting: Brian McDonnell presents on “Invasive Plant Speies Management From the Streambank and Beyond”. BCHC.

March 15: Annual Spring Banquet, Stroudsmoor



Happy Holidays



From Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

**May your Holiday Season
be filled with joy, happiness and peace.**



In this issue:

Happy Holidays	1
President's Message	2
Membership Updates	3
Upcoming Events	4-5
Invasive Plant Removal	6
Advocacy Information	7-8
Fishing Outlook	9
Calendar of Events	10
Advertisers	11

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.

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Members and Friends,

The calendar year is quickly coming to a close on a busy year for the chapter. Once again, the chapter's volunteers have logged over 1000 hours since the start of Trout Unlimited's fiscal year on April 1. The volunteer time and financial support of our members and friends is what makes this organization effective at caring for and helping our Pocono rivers and streams.

While I write this, it is feeling like winter is finally setting in with an inch of snow having fallen here in McMichaels. But, the forecast for the upcoming weekend is for temperatures in the upper 40s and it will likely rain, so the streams will be getting some more water to help with flows and the temps will keep the ice off your rod's guides.

Taking a look at my social media feeds, it looks like quite a few of you are taking advantage of the weather to get out on the creeks around the Poconos to get some fishing in before the really cold weather starts.

I hope you will join the chapter for our annual Holiday Party on December 13 at The Lakeside in Saylorsburg. It's a great time to get together and see some old friends and meet a few new ones.

I would also like to thank everyone who has responded to our Chapter member survey so far. The survey provides an opportunity for you to give us some feedback on topics and locations for upcoming meetings, the types of volunteer opportunities you are interested in and a variety of other topics the chapter can use to help us better understand what you expect from the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

If you haven't already responded, please take a few minutes and respond to one of the emails asking for your input. We will be closing the survey before the end of the year to help inform our planning sessions over the winter.

We also have our introduction to fly-tying classes open for registration. As always, check out our list of upcoming events and let us know you're coming to help by visiting our website at: <http://brodheadtu.org/events-and-registration/>

Have a happy holiday season and tight lines!

Russell

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Gerry Bortz
Ed Filipkowski


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

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

The chapter welcomes new members Scott Bartolacci, Dan Lynch, Steve Gitch and Vincent Mitchell. We thank you for joining us in our mission and we look forward to seeing you soon. If you know of someone who would like to join BTU,  click on the link at right and send them the address.



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.

Donald	Baylor
Todd	Burns
H.	Connor
Fred	Freeman
Glenn	Hessler
David	Katsock

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:

270 Adults + 2 Youth





Chapter Holiday Party at The Lakeside Set for December 13.

The Brodhead Chapter will have a holiday get-together at the Lakeside in Saylorsburg on Wednesday, December 13, 2024. Drinks and dinner will be at 6:30 PM for those who'd like to partake and a review of the year's activities is set for 7:00 PM (or a bit later.) There is no entrance fee but attendees are responsible for the cost of any food and beverage ordered.

Things are bound to get hectic in the coming weeks so why not set aside the date and come out and join us. There surely will be stories told (some true, some not-quite-true) and friendly banter for all. Lets end the year by celebrating our successes.

Follow this [LINK](#) to register. See you there!

Final 2023 Brodhead Fly-Tyers Event

The final Brodhead Fly-Tyers event for 2023 will occur on Monday, December 18, 2023. Starting time is 6:00 PM and the location is the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center in Analomink. This month's focus is "STREAMERS."

If you haven't attended on of the sessions, it's a low-key affair where folks tie flies, tell stories and share their knowledge of the craft. Everyone learns and has some fun. If you don't want to tie but want to say, "Hello," stop on by. You can let us know you are coming by signing up [HERE](#).



Fly-Tying Classes Set to Start

The Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited is holding an introduction to fly tying class starting on Saturday, January 6, 2024. Sessions will be held on six Saturdays in January and February at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center in Analomink, PA. Enrollees will learn basic fly-tying techniques and learn to tie five different local patterns. The necessary skills and techniques learned will sequentially build upon each other as the course progresses and prior lessons will be reinforced throughout.

The six-week class costs \$25 for Trout Unlimited members and \$40 for non-members and includes a one-year membership to Trout Unlimited. Signup fees include all tying materials for the class. Equipment can be rented for an additional \$5 with a \$20 dollar deposit returned when you return the equipment.

The six course dates are:

Saturday January ,6 2024 at 9 AM

Saturday January 13, 2024 at 9 AM

Saturday January 20, 2024 at 9 AM

Saturday January 27, 2024 at 9 AM

Saturday February 3, 2024 at 9 AM

Saturday February 10, 2024 at 9 AM

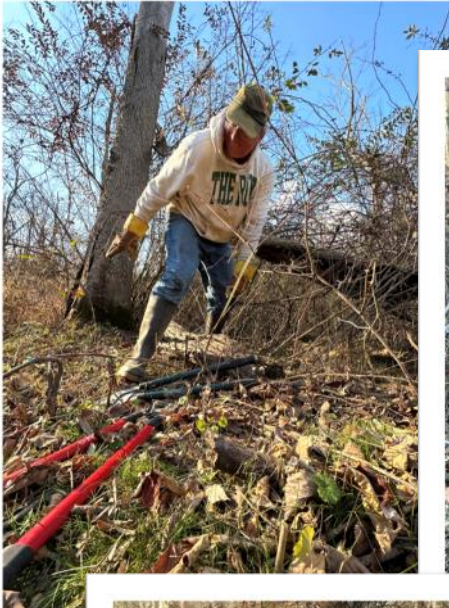
Click to [ENROLL](#).



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Chapter Volunteers Remove Invasive Plants Near Cherry Creek

The afternoon of Sunday, November 19, saw BTU volunteers once again tackle the invasive plants along Cherry Creek in the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Working within the "Larsen Tract" west of S.R. 191, the seven member team cut and treated stands of multiflora rose, several species of decorative olives and vines. Previous work done in April of this year and sessions last year provided a good starting point for this year's work. Progress is now evident and with good turnout in future sessions, the Chapter expects the results of the efforts to accelerate. If you can make it next time, come on out. The more volunteers on site, the faster (and easier!) the work is.



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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.



In Case You Missed it...

Here is the updated link to the [PFBC Regulatory Changes](#) page so you can review these and other proposals and leave a comment. This month there are new proposed additions to the Class A Trout Streams and Wild Trout Streams lists. Locally, Mud Run is in the proposal for Wild Trout Waters! Please follow the link above and submit comments in favor of placing these streams on their respective lists. Being identified as Class A or Wild Trout provides additional protections for the identified streams. Comment period ends December 18, 2023. The email address is: RA-pfbcregulations@pa.gov. Just be sure to identify which proposal you are commenting upon. (Class A Wild Trout or Wild Trout).

[Class A Wild Trout Streams](#)

The Notice linked above outlines wild trout biomass classification criteria by species and the addition of new stream sections to the list of Class A wild trout streams which will be considered during the Commission meeting on January 22, 2024.

[Wild Trout Streams](#)

This Notice linked above outlines the proposed additions and revisions of streams or portions of streams to the Commission's list of wild trout streams, which will be considered during the Commission meeting on January 22, 2024.

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: Regulatory Changes](#)

[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.

December Fishing Outlook



Happy December!

It's the last month of 2023, we're in the midst of the holiday and year-end seasons, and you will probably want to take a mental break and do some fishing. So, what's the outlook? Based upon current and projected stream and weather conditions, the outlook is good.

We've had some rain and there is more in the forecast. This has brought stream levels up a bit and they should stay there for the next two-three weeks. Also, air temperatures are staying above freezing and that will keep the water "warmer" as we head into true winter. Decent flows and warmer temperatures mean the fish should be active.

There may still be some trout spawning activity as you head out, especially in those headwater streams. Be careful where you walk and if you're in an area open to hunting, please wear some blaze orange.

Pictured above are three flies that can be fished in tandem throughout the winter months. The bushy dry is designed to suspend the other two, but occasionally you'll get a strike on it. The brown nymph (#18-#16) and the purple chironomid (#16-#18) can be rotated in the middle and bottom positions. Caution: casting a three-fly tandem can be a tangling experience. Try to slow down your cast and/or use a slower rod to keep a more open loop. If that looks like a bit too much, simply fish a dry-dropper with either the nymph or chironomid on the bottom, some 15" to 18" below the dry. (If you're hitting deeper waters, extend the length of the dropper line and use a larger nymph to get down quicker.) If you're Euro-nymphing, feel free to use a Perdigon to "get em down."

As always, streamers can also produce at this time of year. A slow, jigging style retrieve will often prod a trout into action. If you really, really want to dry fly fish in the winter, you can. But be prepared to go small in the #20-#24 range for midges and the like.

You don't need to hit the streams at the break of dawn in the winter as mid-day is often when the water warms a bit and the trout feed. Remember to dress warmly, tell someone where you're going, and be careful wading.

Tight lines!

EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2024

When registrations open, visit <http://brodheadtu.org/events-and-registration/>

December 13, 2023: Holiday Party at The Lakeside, 5154 Hamilton S, Saylorsburg, PA . 6:30 PM.

January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10: Introduction to Fly Tying at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. You can register [HERE](#).

January 10: General Public Meeting—VIRTUAL: Shorty on the Fly—Details to come.

February 7: General Public Meeting, Fly Tying at 7 PM at BCHC, Pies and Flies

March 13: General Public Meeting: Brian McDonnell presents on “**Invasive Plant Speies Management From the Streambank and Beyond**”. BCHC. 7 PM.

March 15: Annual Spring Banquet, Stroudsmoor Country Inn. Details forthcoming.

March 23: Introduction to Fly Fishing, at BCHC with Kettle Creek Env. Education Center. 9 AM

March 31: Mentored Youth Trout Day

April 6: Opening Day of Trout Season—Knights of Columbus Kids Derby. Details to come.

April 10: General Public Meeting: BCHC, 7 PM. Robert Lundquist presents, “**Seasons of the Delaware**”

April 13: Invasive Removal and Tree Planting

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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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