



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

January 2024



Upcoming Events:

January 6– Feb 10:

Introduction to Fly tying.

Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. 9 AM.

January 17: General Public

Meeting—VIRTUAL: Tim “Shorty” Bartholomew. *Fly-tying Proportions*. 7 PM.

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 Species Management From the Streambank and Beyond”. BCHC. 7 PM.

March 15: Annual Spring

Banquet, Stroudsmoor Country Inn.

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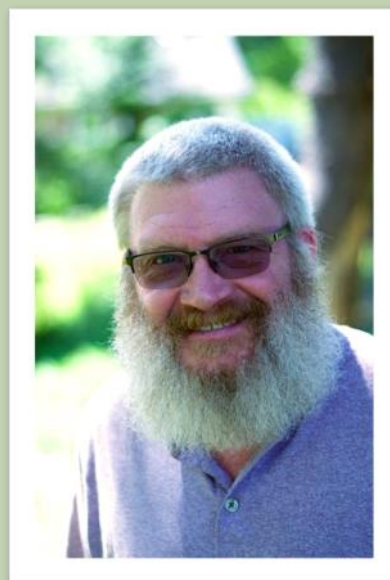
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Tim “Shorty” Bartholomew Presents

Fly-Tying Proportions

On-line Presentation on Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Brodhead Trout Unlimited’s January Public Meeting features Tim “Shorty” Bartholomew presenting “Fly tying Proportions”. Shorty is a retired English teacher with a minor fly tying addiction. Shorty’s YouTube channel “[Shorty on the Fly](#)” is a must view for both beginner and advanced fly tyers and this is a chance to interact with this local celebrity live through a virtual event.



When asked why he enjoys sharing his knowledge, Shorty replied, “I have been fortunate to have many fellow fly fishers share their knowledge and experience with me over the years. It seems that I am constantly learning new things every time I interact with a fellow wielder of the long rod. This is my chance to give back and provide what I have gleaned of the years.”

To gain access to this informative presentation, follow this link, [Fly tying Proportions](#), and register. You’ll receive information via email that will get you into the meeting.

January and February are prime fly-tying months so register and attend. You’ll most certainly pick up several pointers that you will find helpful.



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,

Happy New Year! hope everyone had a great holiday season. As I'm sitting down to right this the snow was falling here in McMichaels as we're getting our first real snowstorm of the season. For most of December, the weather was anything but winter-like and I hope you were able to take advantage of the mild conditions to get out and extend your fishing season. I always look forward to any mid-40s days in December to spend some time fishing without the crowds we usually see in spring and summer.

But with January upon us, winter is looking like it's finally gearing up, so we traditionally focus on fly-tying and indoor activities.

I hope you can join us for our virtual meeting on January 17 with Tim "Shorty" Bartholomew. It promises to be a great opportunity to learn some fly-tying techniques from one of the best.

I also want to thank everyone who took the time to respond to our Members and Friends online survey last month. We received feedback from over 100 of you on your personal preferences for meeting topics, locations and volunteer activities. We are analyzing the results, and it will inform our planning for the upcoming year and beyond.

At first glance, our members and friends told us that they are looking for volunteer opportunities to work on conservation projects and help with educational and community events.

As Brodhead TU has no staff, volunteers are the ones who make everything you read about in the pages of this newsletter possible, not to mention the newsletter itself.

As of the end of December, our volunteers have donated over 1100 hours of their time since the start of our fiscal year last April. We still have almost three months to go, and March is one of our busiest months so I'm sure we will add significantly to the tally.

Beyond volunteering at events, I would encourage you to consider serving as a member or leader of a committee, or serving on our Board of Directors.

The saying *many hands make light work* is more than just an old adage.

At Brodhead TU, the phrase comes to life each and every month as small groups of volunteers come together to make everything we do possible.

If you're interested in sharing your expertise or just lending a hand, please reach out to me or another board member or just come to an event and introduce yourself and offer to help. We'll be glad to have you and I'm sure you'll find the experience rewarding.

Tight lines,

Russell

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Gerry Bortz
Ed Filipkowski

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

The chapter welcomes new members Richard Bell and Garry Huff. 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.

Steve	Babyak	Richard	Jackson
John	Besser	Richard	Nelson
Tim	Bond	Robert	Prichard
John	Burrus	Ray	Romano
William	Cleffi	Thomas	Rumore
D.	Giffels	Bob	Skazenski

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:

270 Adults + 2 Youth



BREAKING

NEWS

From: <https://www.fishandboat.com/Fishing/Stocking/Pages/Notice-of-Stocking.aspx>

(Below is the text from PAFBC regarding the new Notice of Stocking (NOS) regulation. Additional information and a link to the required form is found in the page linked above.)

NOTICE OF STOCKING

Effective January 1, 2024

Ensuring the health and wellbeing of Pennsylvania's waters and aquatic life is paramount to the mission of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and we must be proactive in responding to the increasing challenges brought on by aquatic invasive species and threats to fish health.

As such, **effective January 1, 2024**, any person or group engaged in stocking fish into Commonwealth waters is required to notify the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) by way of Notice of Stocking (NOS).

An NOS is needed for:

- Stocking flowing water such as rivers, streams, or creeks on public and private property
- Stocking non-flowing water such as lakes, ponds (including farm ponds), or reservoirs on public and private property

An NOS is NOT needed for:

- Fish baited on a hook for angling purposes
- Stocking an ornamental pond constructed as a closed water circulation aesthetic landscape feature with no risk of contacting the surface waters of this Commonwealth and does not include aquaculture facilities, ponds constructed to provide fishing opportunity, or ponds used for the confinement or production of baitfish
- Stocking allowed by a triploid grass carp (TGC) permit and reported as directed by that program **Stocking waters contained within a property or premise of a propagation facility licensed under the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Development Law (3 Pa.C.S. §§ 4201-4223)**

SUBMITTING A NOTICE OF STOCKING FORM

An NOS form must be submitted for each waterbody prior to stocking. Multiple stocking events of a waterbody within a single calendar year may be documented on a single form.

The Notice of Stocking form submission is free and easy and helps the PFBC track the number, species, and location of fish being introduced into the waters of the Commonwealth. The information will assist the PFBC in assessing and quantifying fishing opportunities created outside of the PFBC as well as monitor threats to the Commonwealth's aquatic resources.

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. The email address is: RA-pfbcregulations@pa.gov. Just be sure to identify which proposal you are commenting upon.

Webinars or Meetings of Interest



- ⇒ Jan. 29, 12:00 PM PennState Extension - "Water Cooler Talk: Green Infrastructure and Salty Storm-water". [Learn more/register here.](#)
- ⇒ January 18, 6:30-8:30 PM - NEPADOC. Pocono Arts Council and Pocono Heritage Land Trust will present a free screening of [NEPADOC](#), a new feature-length documentary about intersections of environment, industry, and identity in Northeastern Pennsylvania over the past 300 years. [Information and Registration here.](#)
- ⇒ January 25 - Monroe County Conservation District community forum, 5—7 PM. Bartonsville. Info at 629-3060
- ⇒ February 8—6:00-8:00 PM "Climate Change:Where it Stands" at Brodhead Heritage Center
[Richard Whiteford](#) is an internationally acclaimed public speaker, climate change specialist, independent journalist, and environmental activist. He teaches current climate science from NOAA, NASA, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the National Academies of Science and the United Nations Environmental Program. [Information and registration.](#)

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.

January Fishing Outlook



Historically, January is when winter truly hits the Pocono area. Especially when we talk about water temperatures. Our streams and lakes gradually cool throughout the fall and through December and by the time January rolls around we start to see ice. Water temperatures can drop into the 30's and the trout, although active and feeding, aren't going to be moving as far for food.

Additionally, December often brings flooding to the Poconos and this year was no different. (Did you know December is the wettest month of the year in our area?) We had two significant high water events that saw overflowing of banks with returns to normal flows. So, what do very cold water and changing flows mean for your fishing style?

Unless you are out on a rare, warm, winter day (think midges), most of the trout's food will be underneath the surface. Pick out a good nymph selection that includes everything from size #8/#10 stonefly nymphs to #18/#20 baetis nymphs. A good bet is a #16 beadhead hare's ear nymph—pick or tie some in different shades. The photo, right, shows a typical winter fly box of one of our members.

Post flood fishing can be a challenge for several reasons. One is that a hole or run you fished for a decade is no longer there! But that unfortunate instance aside, there are a few things to look for and use to your advantage. The first of these is water color. As high waters recede, the brownish waters begin to clear. Fishing can be best when there is a bit of color in the water. Fish are good at seeing under these conditions, better than us, so take advantage of it. Also, if the waters are still elevated, fish will hold just off the faster water. Drift your flies through these areas next to the current and you'll frequently be rewarded. Don't be afraid to drift it through a promising looking area more than once. Tight lines!



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EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2024



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

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: Tim Bartholomew on “Fly Tying Proportions—[Details in the link.](#)

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 Species Management From the Streambank and Beyond**”. BCHC. 7 PM.

March 15: Annual Spring Banquet, Stroudsmoor Country Inn. Purchase tickets [HERE](#).

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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