



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

February 2024



Upcoming Events:

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. 5:30 PM.

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

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



A Look Back As We Move Forward

We've just moved into 2024 and as we gear up for another year of activity, we wanted to

provide our readers with an overview of what we accomplished in 2023. On pages 3-5 you'll find a brief review of last year's efforts, with whom we worked, and why we made the efforts. Of course, we're hoping you'll be able to join us in this year's projects and activities outlined on pages 8-10. We hope to see you soon as we work to care for and recover our Pocono streams.

General Public Meeting February 7

The chapter's next public meeting is Wednesday, February 7, at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. Starting at 7 PM, we'll enjoy some pizza and live entertainment as we tie flies and share techniques and stories.



In this issue:

Annual Banquet	1
President's Message	2
2023 in Review	3-5
Advocacy Updates	6-7
2024 Calendar	8-10
Advertisers	11
Cover	12

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Don Baylor

Todd Burns

Cathy Folio

Eric Gusztaw

Jim Houghton

Ivers Keller

Glen Lippencott

Brian McDonnell

Don Miller

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're in the home stretch with February the last meteorological month of winter. Spring and the traditional fishing season are right around the corner.

As you page through this edition of the newsletter, you'll see both a review of the chapter's numerous activities last year and our currently planned events for the coming year.

The year just past was very busy and we appreciate the support of our many volunteers who donated over 1800 hours of their time to support our education, outreach and conservation activities. I would like to thank everyone who took the opportunity to lend a hand and encourage everyone to come out and give a hand to support your chapter.

I hope you will be able to join us on February 7th at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center for Pies and Flies, our annual winter fly-tying social event. Bring your fly-tying gear and enjoy some pizza courtesy of the chapter. It's a great time to socialize and pick up a few fly-tying ideas to take home to your bench.

You will find a schedule of events for the year on pages eight through ten, including QR codes that you can scan with your smart phone for more information and registration. We have some informative events planned and hope you will join us.

Finally, don't forget to purchase your tickets for our March 15 Annual Banquet at Stroudsmoor! It's our most important fundraiser and helps support all of our activities and conservation work.

Tight lines,

Russell



2023: A Very Busy Year

◆ Monthly and ongoing activities:

- ◆ BTU has two members on the Steering Committee of Our Pocono Waters, a group dedicated to the care and protection of Exceptional Value Waterways in the Poconos. The chapter is also a member of the Coalition of the Delaware River Watershed. The BTU Board met 11 times and the chapter's Tree Committee and Conservation Committee met multiple times throughout the year to plan and execute events.



- ◆ January and February saw the continuation of our annual Fly Tying Class. Taught by Tim "Shorty" Batholomew the students examined materials and equipment, learned basic techniques and applied them to tie proven flies. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center served as the host site and Tim was assisted by Brodhead TU members throughout the course. Tying flies to match invertebrates gives the students a better understanding of the variety of life in a waterway and encourages them to look more closely when on the water.

- ◆ The Advocacy 101 Workshop on March 11 gave participants an overview of creating positive and effective communications with local, state or even national leaders. Trout need clean, cool waters in which to thrive. As such, it is sometimes necessary to advocate to maintain the protections these Exceptional Value (EV) and High Quality (HQ) streams have been granted by federal, state and/or local laws. Thank you to Emily Baldauff, TU's NE Region Out-

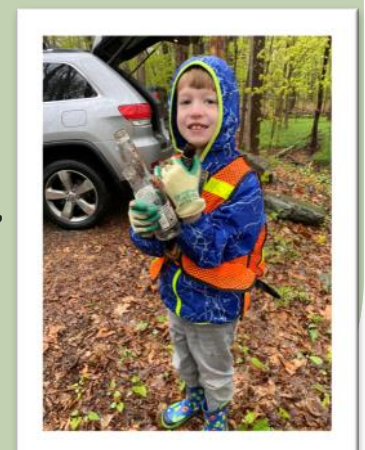
reach Coordinator for her presentation.

- ◆ The annual Conservation Banquet occurred on March 24 and the event was well attended as Don Baylor presented "Fishing Patagonia." The banquet was one of our major fundraisers in support of our educational and conservation activities throughout the year.

- ◆ March 25 was the chapter's Introduction to Fly Fishing workshop at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. Chapter members led participants through sessions on entomology, equipment, casting, and knot tying. Closing activities included a presentation on "Reading the Water" and "Where to Fish." This educational program provided an entry point for the attendees to enter into a lifetime, outdoor sport.

- ◆ Author John Maclean presented "Maclean Country" on April 12. Conducted virtually, attendees viewed the presentation at Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center and enjoyed the anecdotes and stories of family, friendships and fishing. Mr. Maclean is the son of Norman Maclean, author of *A River Runs Through It*.

- ◆ Brodhead TU assisted with the Knights of Columbus Fishing Derby at Brodhead Park on April 15. What a great way to get families and kids involved in fishing.
- ◆ The first invasive plant removal workshop of 2023 occurred on April 22 on the Larsen Tract of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers cleared invasive species from along the banks of Cherry Creek. Stands of multiflora rose, Russian olive and others were removed to make room for the plantings of oak and maple tree species. Special thank to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their assistance and support.
- ◆ Annual trash clean-up along Pocono Creek and Bisbing Run occurred on April 29. Keeping things clean and green benefits the community.



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2023: A Very Busy Year

- ◆ As a follow-up to the Introduction to Fly Fishing workshop, the Chapter had a “Fly Fishing—The Next Step” program at Zacharias’ Pond in East Stroudsburg on May 2. Participants had the opportunity to put into practice the basics that were covered in March. They caught fish, a few trees (we all do that!) and had a good time. Getting outdoors and experiencing the resources is vital to maintain interest in not only the fishing but also in keeping the waters clean so everyone now, and in the future, can enjoy them.
- ◆ The General Public Meeting on May 10 was held at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center and was simply a night on the Brodhead. Whether they hit the creek, sat on the deck or took a lovely walk on the trails, those in attendance enjoyed the ForEvergreen Nature Preserve and the fellowship of friends.



- ◆ This year’s STREAM Girls event was held on May 19-21 and chapter volunteers worked with the Girl Scouts in water quality, fly tying, and fishing activities. The girls were in the creek and in the classroom and they did a great job. An opportunity like this ensures that the participants get immersed in nature and learn and experience the applications of math and the arts in sciences.
- ◆ June 10 had two events. In the morning, the chapter held its “Fly Fisherman’s Yard Sale.” Visitors could purchase high quality, used gear, fly tying materials, books, accessories and more at great prices. The chapter raised \$800 needed for the Pomeroy-McMichaels Habitat Improvement Project. Afternoon was time for the annual Chapter Picnic. We had a good turnout this year with more food than we could dream of eating. The weather was great and so, too, was the socialization.
- ◆ Several members of the chapter assisted with the July 12 installation of a Mayfly data logger on McMichaels Creek on the Pomeroy-McMichaels Nature Preserve.



These units measure, record and upload several values of interest to stream watchers. Water temperature, electrical conductivity and flow are three that are measured by this unit. These real-time values are important when looking for baseline data and deviations from the baseline. The deviations may indicate an issue that needs further investigation in order to preserve the quality of the water.

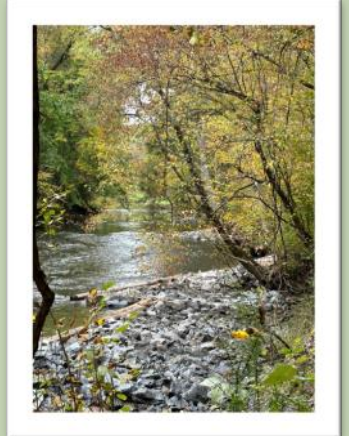
- ◆ The chapter worked with campers at the Monroe County Conservation District’s week-long conservation camp. On July 26, BTU presented a brief introduction to fly-fishing where the campers explored fly-tying, fly casting and equipment. Providing an entry preview into an outdoor sport is important to the future of conservation efforts.
- ◆ Brodhead Trout Unlimited’s 3rd Annual “Summer Slam On-Line Auction” occurred in August and the proceeds from the auction, @\$2,000, were put toward the habitat improvement project on McMichaels Creek. This project created hundreds of feet of undercut cover, increased stream velocity and feeding and resting lanes behind boulder placements.
- ◆ Working with US Fish and Wildlife personnel at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, chapter volunteers worked with youth leaders in the Urban Youth Partnership. These student leaders were enthusiastic participants in the creek ID’ing macroinvertebrates, discovering the fly-tying process and casting a rod.



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2023 (cont'd)

- ◆ Three BTU Board Members attended the annual PA Council of Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting near Bellfonte, PA, on September 16. The chapter was recognized and received an award for the best chapter web page. Representatives of the PA Fish & Boat Commission spoke on new initiatives, National TU made a brief presentation on the upcoming Priority Waters program, and PA Council reviewed the state level activities.
- ◆ October 2-12 saw the habitat improvement project on McMichaels Creek. Working with the landowner Pocono Heritage Land Trust and the PA Fish & Boat Commission, the plans resulted in the installation of log-framed stone deflectors, boulder placements and a large log-framed, stone-throated cross vane. Over 500 feet of “undercut” on the leading edge of the structures provided badly needed shelter for trout. Additionally, the deflectors and cross-vanes accelerated the flow in a previously slow moving section of the creek. Trout moved into the areas in less than two weeks!

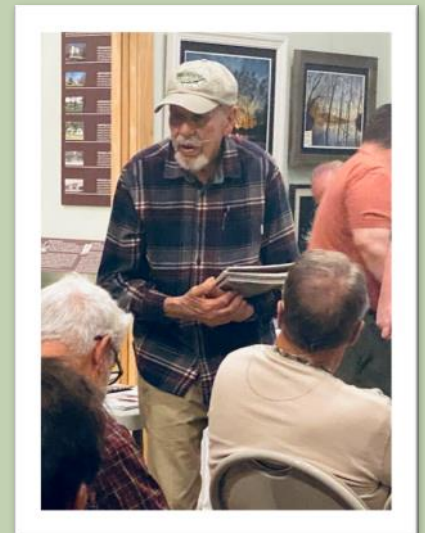


- ◆ This year’s rod-building class convened on October 18 and met for four weekly sessions. Students constructed a four-piece, four weight 7 1/2’ graphite fly rod from component parts. Rumor has it that some of the students already caught trout on their creations!

- ◆ A second invasive removal workday was held on November 19. Considerable progress was made on the Larsen Tract of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Again, Russian olive, multiflora rose, and other plants were removed making room for native plants and trees to regenerate.

- ◆ The year closed out with a holiday get together and dinner at The Lakeside in Saylorsburg. It was great to get together and celebrate a year of activity and generate interest in the next year’s activities.
- ◆ Volunteers from the chapter donated over 1800 hours of volunteer time in educational, informational and conservation activities.
- ◆ In the course of the year, the chapter worked with the following groups or organizations:

- * Stroud Township
- * US Fish and Wildlife Service
- * Knights of Columbus
- * PA Fish and Boat Commission
- * Pocono Heritage Land Trust
- * Brodhead Watershed Association
- * PA Council Trout Unlimited
- * Our Pocono Waters
- * Girl Scouts
- * Monroe County Conservation District
- * Project Healing Waters and Valor Clinic



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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. The email address is: RA-pfbcregulations@pa.gov. Just be sure to identify which proposal you are commenting upon. <https://www.fishandboat.com/About-Us/Pages/Regulatory-Changes.aspx>

Webinars or Meetings of Interest

⇒ February 8—6:00-8:00 PM "Climate Change:Where it Stands" at Brodhead Heritage Center, sponsored by the Pocono Heritage Land Trust

[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.](#) (https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/5_UodMSkhHWfCU-Z6Eovzw)



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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.

2024 Calendar of Events

February		
07	Public Meeting: Pies & Flies	
	Wednesday 7 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87672	
	Brodhead Fly Tyers	19
	Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87859	
March		
13	Public Meeting: Brian McDonnell Presents "Invasive Plant Species Management from the Streambank and Beyond"	
	Wednesday 7 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87673	
	Annual Banquet	15
	Friday 5:30 PM Woodsgate at Stroudsmoor Country Inn	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/88017	
19	Brodhead Fly Tyers	
	Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87859	
	Introduction to Fly Fishing	23
	Saturday 9 AM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87861	
April		
Knights of Columbus Children's Fishing Contest		6
Brodhead Creek Park		
Gates Open at 6:30 AM Volunteers needed from 6:30 AM to 11:00 AM		
10	Public Meeting: Robert Lindquist presents "Seasons of the Delaware"	
	Wednesday 7 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87674	
	Invasive Plant Removal	13
	Saturday 9:00 AM Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Larsen Lane Tract	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87897	
13	Riparian Buffer Restoration (Tree Planting)	
	Saturday 1 PM Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Larsen Lane Tract	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87898	
	Brodhead Fly Tyers	15
	Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87863	
May		
4	Annual Trash Clean-up	
	Saturday 9 AM Location To Be Announced	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87899	
	Fly Fishing the Next Step	7-28
	Tuesdays 6 PM Locations Vary	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87878	
11	Public Meeting: Fishing Meet-up on the Pocono Creek	
	Saturday 7:30 AM Billy's Pocono Diner	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87702	

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May Cont'd

19-21

STREAM Girls

Friday 6:30 PM, Saturday 9 AM, Sunday 9 AM Paradise Fall Lutheran Association

We are looking for volunteers for all 3 days contact one of your chapter leaders if you are interested



Brodhead Fly Tyers

Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87864>

20

June

8

Fisherman's Flea Market

Saturday at 9AM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87877>



Public Meeting: Chapter Picnic

Saturday 3 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87703>

8

17

Brodhead Fly Tyers

Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87876>



Introduction to Fly Fishing

Saturday 9 AM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87879>

29

Chapter Project(s) Dates and Locations To Be Announced

July

15

Brodhead Fly Tyers

Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87900>



Monroe County Conservation Camp Fly Fishing Instruction

Thursday 1 PM Stony Acres

Volunteers needed, contact a Chapter Leader if interested in assisting

25

Chapter Project(s) Dates and Locations To Be Announced

August

19

Brodhead Fly Tyers

Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87935>



Fly Fishing Instruction for the Youth Volunteers at the Cherry Valley NWR Dates To Be Announced

Chapter Project(s) Dates and Locations To Be Announced

September



Public Meeting: Don Baylor Presents "Eastern Hatches"

Wednesday 7 PM Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

<https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87937>

11

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16	Brodhead Fly Tyers	
	Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87941	
October		
	Public Meeting: Adam Nidoh present "Discovering the Lehigh"	9
	Wednesday 7 PM Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87942	
16-11/6	Introduction to Rod Building	
	Wednesday 6:30 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87943	
	Brodhead Fly Tyers	21
	Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87945	
October is also the Month of Festivals including the Quiet Valley Harvest Festival on October 12-13		
We also plan on attending the Polk Township Environmental Day and the Cherry Valley Fall Festival		
Contact Your Chapter Leaders if you are interested or want to learn more		
November		
9	Public Meeting: Hike at the Rail Gap Pocono Creek Nature Preserve	
	Saturday 9 AM Rail Gap Pocono Creek Nature Preserve	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87946	
	Brodhead Fly Tyers	18
	Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87948	
December		
11	Public Meeting: Chapter Holiday Party	
	Wednesday 6 PM Lakeside	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87949	
	Brodhead Fly Tyers	16
	Monday 6 PM Brodhead Creek Heritage Center	
	https://tu.myeventscenter.com/event/87950	



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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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www.newmanwilliams.com
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P.O. Box 511 • 712 Monroe Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360-0511

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(570) 355-0165.

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