



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

May 2024



May 4: Tree Planting on Larsen Tract, (CVNWR). 1 PM

May 7-28: Fly Fishing: The Next Step

May 11: Fishing Meet-up on Pocono Creek. Meet at Billy's Pocono Diner at 7:30 AM for Breakfast

May 17-19: STREAM Girls activities at Paradis Falls Lutheran Association.

June 8: BTU Rummage Sale, 9 AM, BCHC.

June 8: Chapter Picnic, 3 PM- ? Brodhead Creek Heritage Center (BCHC)

June 15: Cherry Creek Workday. Time TBD.

A Day On The Pocono



On Saturday, May 11, the Brodhead Chapter will be meeting for a day of fellowship and fishing along Pocono Creek. The morning begins with an optional breakfast at Billy's Pocono Diner at 7:30 AM followed by several hours of fishing one of the many stretches of Pocono Creek with public access. If you prefer to

dine at home before heading out on the stream with us, that's okay! Feel free to come by about 8:15 AM. If you're new to the stream or the sport, members will gladly mentor you on a section stream. The weather looks great so come on out.



[**REGISTER HERE.**](#)

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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.

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Members and Friends,

As you read this edition of the newsletter, you'll see that our volunteers have been remarkably busy over the last few weeks. You can check out the photos from a selection of chapter activities over the past few weeks on the pages of this newsletter.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help with all our events including three separate workdays for invasive plant removal work, riparian buffer maintenance and tree planting at the Larsen Lane tract at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteers also did maintenance on the riparian buffer planting the chapter did at the Polk Township Walking Park in Kresgeville.

In addition to our chapter members, a few Boy Scouts from Troop 99 in Effort volunteered their time on a Saturday morning assisting with our annual chapter stream cleanup along Pocono Creek and Bisbing Run at the Pocono Heritage Land Trust (PHLT) Tannersville Woods Nature Preserve and the Learn Preserve.

We'll be working with Troop 99 later this year as we pilot our Fly-Fishing/Fishing Merit Badge weekend program.

Students and their teachers from Notre Dame and Stroudsburg High Schools also released the trout they raised this year at their school's Trout in the Classroom programs. The chapter supplied volunteers who helped introduce the students to fly fishing skills and the science behind healthy coldwater habitat.

A few years ago, the chapter set a goal of getting a Trout in the Classroom program at each of the school districts in our area and I'm happy to report that the chapter is partnering with Pleasant Valley Middle School teacher Mike Wertman to introduce the program next year to his sixth grade students. With the addition of Pleasant Valley, we have achieved our goal.

There are more volunteer opportunities and some fun fishing coming up.

Over the next few weeks, our volunteers will be teaching our Fly Fishing the Next Step program on Tuesday evenings in May to give past attendees of our intro class some valuable hands-on experience with the new fly-fishing skills they learned at Zacharias Pond in East Stroudsburg.

If that isn't enough, our volunteers will also be running another Stream Girls education event May 17-19 with a local Girl Scout troop.

Finally, if you're free on Saturday, May 11, the chapter will hold a fishing meet up on Pocono Creek. We're meeting at Billy's Diner on Route 611 in Tannersville for fish tales at breakfast, then fanning out to fish along the creek.

I hope to see you soon at one of our events or volunteer opportunities,

Russell

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DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Gerry Bortz

Ed Filipkowski

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



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

The chapter welcomes new member Thomas Scipioni. We thank you for joining us in our mission and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Half-price membership for new members! 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 Kevin Boutin who has chosen to renew his membership or contribute to TU's mission. Kevin, your efforts in supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated.

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:

268 Adults + 3 Youth



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Advocacy Update:

BTU is a member of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed and is signing on to this request letter.



May 7, 2024

Dear Governor Shapiro and Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, and various partner organizations throughout Western Pennsylvania, we ask for your support of the following requests to protect Pennsylvania's creeks, streams, and rivers:

- Full fair-share funding of all of the interstate basin commissions
 - Delaware River Basin Commission (\$1,047,000)
 - Susquehanna River Basin Commission (\$740,000)
 - Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (\$182,000)
 - Great Lakes Commission (\$97,000)
 - Potomac River Basin (\$51,000)
- Codification of the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Environmental Justice (Senate Bill 158/House Bill 742) and Environmental Justice Advisory Board (House Bill 707)
- The creation of the Healthy Outdoors for All Program (HOAP), which would provide matching grants to fund projects that support trails, parks, and open spaces
- Support for the Riparian Buffer Protection Act (House Bill 1275)
- Dedicated funding for the Clean Streams Fund

Together the Choose Clean Water Coalition, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, and organizations from Western PA harness the collective power of over 600 organizations to advocate for healthy rivers, streams, and communities in every watershed of Pennsylvania. Our members, spanning conservationists, farmers, hunters, and anglers, are unified by a shared recognition: **investing in and managing our water resources must be a paramount priority for the Commonwealth.**

Over one-third of Pennsylvania's 86,000 stream miles are degraded and considered "impaired" by the Department of Environmental Protection. This is an enormous undertaking, which is why we need to 1) fully fund the interstate basin commissions; 2) protect marginalized communities who bear the brunt of downstream pollution by codifying the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) and the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB); 3) create the Healthy Outdoors for All Program (HOAP); 4) strengthen standards for riparian buffers along our waterways; and 5) establish sustainable funding for the Clean Streams Fund.

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Advocacy Update



Inadequately funded and staffed commissions put Pennsylvania's communities at risk of suffering from increased water pollution, infrastructure issues, and declining aquatic wildlife. Basin commissions oversee water quality and quantity issues related to flood control, flow management, water withdrawals, aquatic flora, recreation, navigation, and industrial runoff. Funding requirements for the interstate basin commissions have been established for decades, and Pennsylvania must honor the commitment made to these compacts.

Clean water issues are also often environmental justice issues. We strongly advocate for strengthening the roles of the Office of Environmental Justice and the Environmental Justice Advisory Board to address the disproportionate burden borne by marginalized communities.

Clean water quality isn't just crucial for safeguarding public health and preserving ecosystems; it also enriches the recreational pursuits of those who cherish parks, trails, and the great outdoors. Supporting the establishment of the Healthy Outdoors for All Program will help revitalize and enhance parks, trails, and outdoor spaces, particularly expanding access for disadvantaged communities.

Riparian buffers play a crucial role in curbing pollution runoff, combating climate change impacts, safeguarding ecosystems, and serving as a cost-efficient method for managing water quality. The Riparian Buffer Protection Act stands as a vital initiative through which the Commonwealth can actively encourage the establishment of more of these invaluable natural assets.

Finally, the scale of water pollution in Pennsylvania means that a one-time injection of funds into the Clean Streams Fund will not be sufficient. Establishing dedicated funding will ensure the protection of our water resources for generations.

With funding in hand, policies like the Riparian Buffer Act, and agencies like OEJ & EJAB in place, Pennsylvania can make great strides in improving and protecting water quality for all residents. Please contact Adam Nagel at nagel@pennfuture.org with questions or for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

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.



Change In Method to Comment On Proposed Regulatory Changes

Until the end of 2023, PFBC accepted comments on upcoming regulatory proposals through email and a web-based application, in addition to regular mail. Moving forward, comments will need to be made via mail or the email RA-pfbcregulations@pa.gov. **The proposed regulations** are still posted on line for your review **BUT** they are on the **Pennsylvania Bulletin** site. To review the proposed changes, you will need to navigate by following the steps below:

1. Click on this [Pennsylvania Bulletin link](#).
2. Under "BULLETIN", select the most recent volume.
3. Select the most recent issue.
4. Select "Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission" from the menu. You will see any pending proposals as a hyperlink.
5. Select the proposal and it should open so you can read it.

Comments may be submitted by mail to: Executive Director, Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000, within 30 days after publication of the notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Electronic submission can be made to RA-pfbcregulations@pa.gov. As before, just be sure to identify which proposal you are commenting upon.

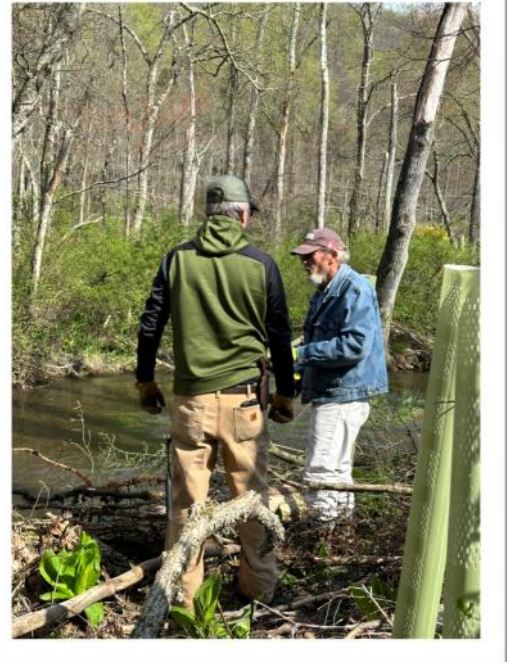
Recent Event and Activity Photos

Invasive Control, Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, April 13 2024.



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April 20, 2024: Riparian Buffer Maintenance.



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ND East Stroudsburg TIC Release Day: May 1, 2024.



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Riparian Planting, May 4, 2024.



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Tannersville Area Streamside Cleanup, April 2024.



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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: 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.

April Fishing Outlook



May Is Prime Time; Be Ready!

It's May and that means mayflies and, of course, the ubiquitous caddis. We now have daylight well into the evening and you may see morning, late afternoon and evening hatches with spinner falls coming at dusk. Water levels are dropping quickly and it will be interesting to see how much rain we get in the merry month of May. We will certainly need some.

As the month starts out, we'll see olive-brown and tan caddis, Hendricksons, Blue-winged olives (baetis variety) and some early yellow sallies (stoneflies). It won't be long until the sulphurs (size 14-16 with rusty spinners) are here to really give the trout a great menu from which to choose.

Caddis pupae, caddis emerger, and adult caddis are all good bets in sizes #14 and #16. Whether you Euro nymph to get deep or use a tandem, float rig, don't be afraid to add a little twitch or jerk of about one foot. Caddis emerge quickly and the trout will follow them up and right through the surface! Ever see a trout come straight up out of the water and look you in the eye? Well, most probably it was following an emerging caddis, especially this time of year.

Hendricksons and Hendrickson Spinners are always a good bet. Size #14 is a good place to start. If things are slow, you can always put a small baetis nymph on, #18 and see what they brings about. Look for sulphurs to start emerging at dusk and their spinners to fall around dark. You may need to listen to hear the rises 'cause you can't see any more!

Here's hoping you can get out and enjoy our Pocono trout streams and enjoy the month of May.

EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2024



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

May 4: Tree Planting: Larsen Tract. CVNWR. 1 PM.

May 7-28: Fly Fishing: The Next Step. Tuesdays, 6 PM.

May 11: Fishing Meet-up on the Pocono Creek. 7:30 AM, meet at Billy's Pocono Diner

June 8: Chapter Rummage/Yard Sale. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. 9 AM

**June 8: Annual Chapter Picnic. Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. Bring a side dish or dessert.
3 PM—?**

June 15: Cherry Creek Workday.

July 13: Yankee Run Workday #1

August 10: Yankee Run Workday #2

September 7: ForEvergreen Angler Access Workday.

September 14: PA Council Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting.

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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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