



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

November 2024



December 11 – Chapter Holiday Party – Lakeside, Saylorsburg.

January 8—Virtual Chapter Meeting. Stay tuned for details.

January 4, 11, 18 and 25: Intro to Fly Tying Course, 9 AM

February 1, 8—Intro to Fly Tying Course, BCHC 9 AM

February 12 — General Public Meeting: Flies, Pies and Lies

Chapter Holiday Party Lakeside, Saylorsburg.



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On Wednesday, December 11, 2024, the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited will hold its annual holiday party at the Lakeside in Saylorsburg, PA. If you’d like to join us for dinner and beverages, the start time is 6:00 PM. If you’d just like to come for the program and conversation, you can choose to arrive at 7 PM.

In addition to catching up with friends and telling stories, the chapter will provide an overview of its activities throughout the year and what is in store for 2025. You can reserve your spot by clicking on the following link.

[Registration.](#)

We hope you can join us!

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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The Home Pool

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

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Members and Friends,

We really need some rain. As I write this, we just received nearly half an inch of rain, but that is less than the proverbial drop in the bucket at this point. Looking at the local USGS flow gauges, the creeks are suffering and way below median flow levels. Relief isn't in the 10-day forecast with just one day showing any appreciable precipitation.

Given the drought conditions, the November fishing outlook on page nine is a plea to leave the trout alone until we get some more rain. It is good advice given the critical spawning season is upon us and the reduced water levels are making it tough on our favorite fish.

I want to thank all the volunteers who came out to help with our projects and community events over the past few weeks. You'll read and see photos from our continuing work to remove invasive plant species from around Cherry Creek at the Larsen Lane Tract of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

You'll also see some photos of the planting work along the McMichaels Creek at the site of our project in the Pocono Heritage Land Trust (PHLT) Pomeroy McMichaels Creek Nature Preserve where we completed Phase I of our habitat improvement project last year.

Beyond the plantings, the chapter started its annual fly rod building class and attended a few community events which you'll read about in the following pages.

As always, you can 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/>

Finally, mark your calendars for our Chapter Holiday party on December 11 at The Lakeside in Saylorsburg. I hope to see you there!

Tight lines,

Russell

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Gerry Bortz

Ed Filipkowski

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

The chapter welcomes new members throughout the year and we hope pto have some more names here 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 the following individuals who have chosen to renew a membership or contribute to TU's mission. Your efforts in supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated.

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| Eric | Baird |
| Donald | Baylor |
| Karen | Gee |
| Bryan | Hudreck |
| Richard | Jackson |
| Joseph | Pipolo |
| Tom | Rupp |
| Stephen | Schroettinig |
| Rodney | Stark |
| David | Strunk |

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:

247 Adults + 3 Youth

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

James Connor

Ann Foster

Tim Fritz

Jeff Heberley

Greg Malaska

Daniel Steere

Arie VanWingerden

Tom Van Zandt



Larsen Tract Invasive Removal and Shrub Planting



Volunteers from BTU gathered on the Larsen Tract of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, October 27 and removed invasive shrubs and replaced them with Black Chokeberry plants. An ongoing project, the Chapter is dedicated to rehabilitating this site that was decimated by the death of the ash tree population. This area of the Refuge borders on Cherry Creek, a low-gradient wild brown trout stream. Previous plantings of willow and swamp oak are doing well and the expectation is that within a few years a more “native” variety of plants will be thriving on the south side of the creek.



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Finishing Touches Completed on Pomeroy Project Site

BTU volunteers placed the finishing touches on the Phase I of the Pomeroy-McMichaels Creek project on November 2. Volunteers planted 5 Sycamore and 3 Hazelnut trees in the riparian gaps created during the construction last year. These trees should help reestablish the tree line in those areas and act as a shield to neighboring properties of this Pocono Heritage Land Trust Preserve.

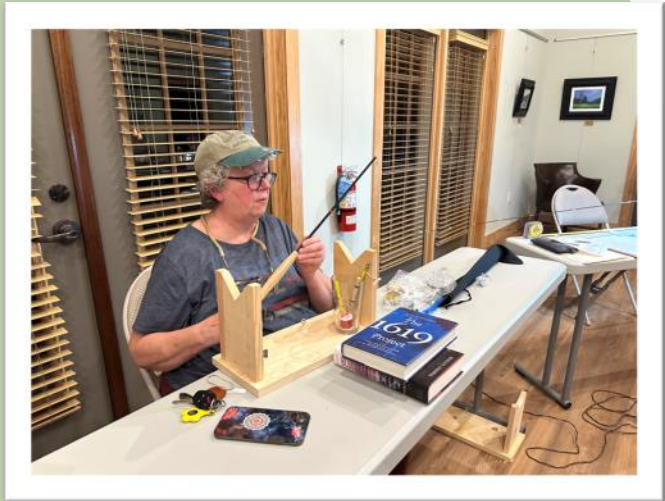


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Rod Building Classes Almost Completed

The four-session fly rod building classes are coming to a close on November 13. Our six students are learning and applying the basic methods of rod-building and are eager learners. Tips and “tricks” from our experienced rod builders are readily shared with the group. We anticipate some fish will be caught with our students’ products prior to the onset of winter.

If you think you’d like to try this, look forward to the notice next year. We usually start in mid to late October. We’d love to have you join us.



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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.



NEW

Proposed Changes to Regulations in Peck's Pond, Pike County

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.

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 hyper-link.
5. Select the proposal and it should open so you can read it.

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**.

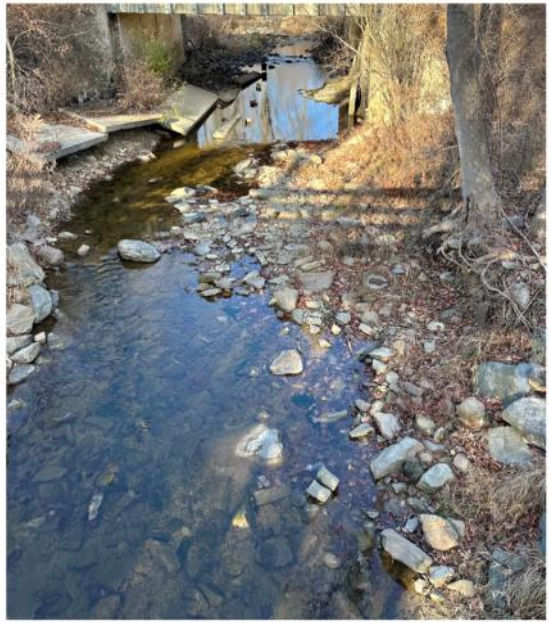


Trout
Unlimited
Ethics
Hotline

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

November Fishing Outlook

We all love to fish and target the wonderful trout in the greater Pocono region. However, given the current and predicted weather patterns and the current state of our streams, we believe it is in the best interest of our trout populations if we give them a break. They have enough to deal with. Unless you are able to find some tailwater or tailwater influenced stream, or a lake with a suitable water level, we suggest that you refrain from trout fishing in the foreseeable future. We make this recommendation based upon the following:



- Current drought conditions have reduced primary streams and especially headwater tributaries to exceptionally low flows. Such flows stress the trout and make it much easier for natural predators such as osprey, mink, otters, etc. to prey upon our local salmonids. The trout populations don't need any more stressors.
- November is usually prime spawning time for brown and brook trout. Unfortunately, the current drought conditions have greatly reduced the available spawning habitat. As such, it is likely that this year's spawn will be negatively affected. So, again, looking at the population as a whole, we can help them out by staying out of the streams.
- Local weather forecasts do not indicate much precipitation is on the way in the next few weeks. With the exception of a few days, the temperature forecasts are for above average temperatures. These two factors will make our current situation even worse.

Hopefully, we will get some much-needed precipitation in the coming months and we can wet a line!

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EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2024-25



For more information and to register, visit <http://brodheadtu.org/events-and-registration/> or click on the links below.

December 11 – Chapter Holiday Party – Lakeside, Saylorsburg. [Registration.](#)

January 8—Virtual Chapter Meeting. Stay tuned for details.

January 4, 11, 18 and 25: Intro to Fly Tying Course, 9 AM

February 1, 8—Intro to Fly Tying Course, BCHC 9 AM

February 12 — General Public Meeting: Flies, Pies and Lies. BCHC 7 PM.

March 12—General Public Meeting featuring Bill Leonard. “The History of the Devil’s Hole”, BCHC. 7 PM.

March 22—Introduction to Fly Fishing, with KCEEC, starting at 9 AM at BCHC

March 28—Annual Spring Banquet, Shawnee Inn. Information forthcoming.

April 5—KOC Kids Fishing Derby (Opening Day) Brodhead Creek Park

April 9—General Public Meeting: Featuring Tim “Shorty” Bartholomew

April 12—Workday: Larsen Lane Tract—Invasive Removal, CVNWR, 9 AM

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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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This space available to advertise your event or business. For information and rates, contact Eric Baird @

(570) 355-0165.

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