



# Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

December 2024



December 11 – Chapter  
Holiday Party – Lakeside,  
Saylorsburg. 6:30 PM

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

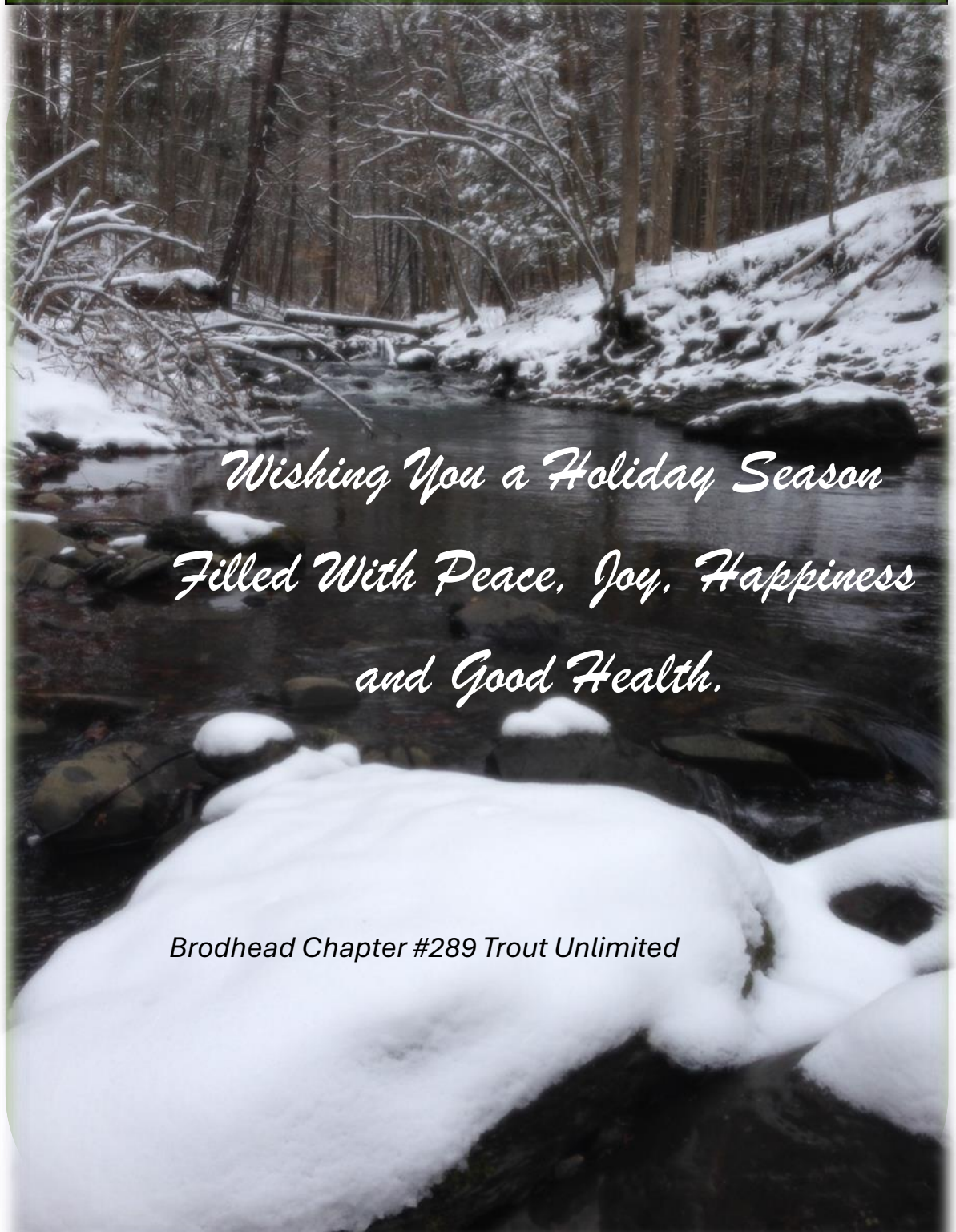
February 1, 8—Intro to Fly  
Tying Course, BCHC 9 AM

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

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

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*Wishing You a Holiday Season  
Filled With Peace, Joy, Happiness  
and Good Health.*

*Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited*

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,

Happy holidays! Another year is quickly coming to a close, at least on a calendar basis, for the chapter.

It's been another productive year for the chapter thanks to the many people who contributed their time to further our work to educate people about, protect and improve our coldwater resources.

Since the start of Trout Unlimited's fiscal year on April 1, our volunteers have invested over 1050 hours supporting our work on coldwater conservation- that up from last year at this time.

I want to thank everyone who donated their time and came out to one of our conservation or education events. The great work you do makes an impact. I hope you will join the chapter for our annual Holiday Party on December 11 at The Lakeside in Saylorsburg. It's a great time to celebrate our successes over the past year and get together and see some old friends and meet some new ones.

Also, if you're looking to expand your fishing skill set over the winter, the chapter's introduction to fly-tying classes start in January and are now open for registration. As always, you can see the 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!

Tight lines,

Russell

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Gerry Bortz

Ed Filipkowski

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

The chapter welcomes new members throughout the year and we hope to 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

Homer Lee

Bill Leonard

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

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:

**246 Adults + 3 Youth**



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## Chapter Holiday Party

On Wednesday, December 11, 2024, the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited will hold its annual holiday party at the Lakeside, 5154 Hamilton S, Saylorsburg, PA. You're invited to join us for dinner and beverages, The start time is 6:30PM. If you'd just like to come for the program and conversation, you can choose to arrive @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.](#)



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### **Public Hearing: Chapter 105 Orchard BJK "Lot 1" Development in Coolbaugh Township**

**Tuesday, December 17, 2024 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

**Tobyhanna Elementary Center  
398 Old Rte. 940  
Pocono Pines, PA 18350**

On July 26, 2024, the Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) received a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Joint Permit application for a utility crossing associated with the Pocono Mountains Corporate Center North Warehouse, Tobyhanna, PA, in Coolbaugh Township, Monroe County. Written public comments were received during an initial comment period. The Department is now conducting a public hearing to accept additional comments on the documentation and plans associated with this permit application. The plans involve the following receiving watercourses:

- Hawkey Run (HQ-CWF, MF)
- Duck Puddle Run (HQ-CWF, MF)
- Exceptional Value (EV) Wetlands associated with above waterways.

It is recommended that testimony is limited to the permit being heard and the impacts associated with that permit such as:

- 1) Functions and values of the waters and wetlands to be impacted and
- 2) What would be considered adequate mitigation. (Any feasible alternatives such as routing the utilities along the 611 corridor for example that have not been adequately explored or not adequately dismissed.)

#### **IF YOU WISH TO TESTIFY AT THE HEARING:**

Written copies of oral testimony are requested by the Department. Individuals must submit a written notice of intent to: Colleen Connolly at [coconnolly@pa.gov](mailto:coconnolly@pa.gov). The Department will accept requests up to the day of the hearing. Additionally, the Department requests that individuals limit their testimony to 5 minutes so that all individuals have the opportunity to testify.

#### **THE PERMIT APPLICATION AND CONCEPTUAL PLANS CAN BE VIEWED AT:**

Monroe County Conservation District Office, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA at (570) 629-3060, DEP Northeast Regional Office, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA (570) 826-2511

## Coming in 2025

**Looking ahead to 2025, Brodhead TU looks to continue and or expand its activities throughout the greater Pocono area. These include:**

- Supporting our Trout In The Classroom programs in area schools along with highlighting at least one program per month in our newsletter.
- Conducting a multi-week flytying course.
- Leading a multi-week rod-building course.
- Conducting 1-2 fly fishing seminars/workshops.
- Assisting with the Monroe County Conservation District's Summer Youth Camp
- Assisting the US Fish and Wildlife Service with their urban youth program
- Assisting with the Knights of Columbus' annual fishing derby on Opening Day.
- Completing additional habitat improvements along Yankee Run in Pocono Heritage Land Trust's Yankee Run Preserve.
- Monitoring past habitat work on McMichaels Creek and Pocono Creek.
- Removing invasive plants along Cherry Creek in the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
- Planting native species in riparian areas along Cherry Creek in the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge..
- Advocating for the protection of Exceptional Value (EV) and High Quality (HQ) cold-water fisheries throughout the Poconos.
- Working collaboratively with organizations such as Brodhead Watershed Association, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service, PA Fish & Boat and others.
- Holding monthly meetings open to the public.
- Raise funds to support our advocacy, education and habitat improvement activities.

This is a busy agenda but one we've been building for some time. There will probably be additional activities as opportunities and ideas arise throughout the year. We thank you for your past support and look forward to your assistance in the future. Working together, we can make great things happen.



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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 Class A and Wild Trout Waters List](#)

### [Proposed Removal of Lower Woods Pond Big Bass Program](#)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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(s).
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.

## 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.

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## 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](mailto:bsmith@tu.org), Vice President for Volunteer Operations, or Julisa Edwards, [jedwards@tu.org](mailto: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

In the past few weeks, we've had some snow, some rain, and a bit more snow. We've had a brief bit of deep freeze and are heading to a week of "warmer" and maybe wet weather. It's been a bit crazy and that makes for some unique decisions regarding fishing.

We've seen quite a few redds out there so the trout were able to find some areas in which to spawn. Be advised there will still be some late-spawning trout in our streams and the redds of those past spawners will still be visible so please be careful if you wade. However, from our observations, most of our trout have spawned and have moved to other locations. A little less to worry about.

The big issue we will probably be dealing with for a while is the volume of water in our streams. They are remarkably low and we would urge you to fish in streams that have decent flows or wait until some rain and/or snowmelt replenishes flows a bit.

So, when you find some decently flowing water and avoid the redds, what should be on the end of your line? Some folks swear by their favorite streamer pattern(s) while others are just as adamant in using small nymphs. Under the anticipated conditions in December, fish what you are most comfortable with and, perhaps, downsize a bit. If you fish a #6 streamer, go to a #8 or #10. If it's a small nymph, go from a #16 to a #18. or #20.

If you don't like fishing in the cold, ties some flies or clean your gear and get ready for late winter and spring. If you go out, be prepared for the elements and the unexpected. Be careful out there!



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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 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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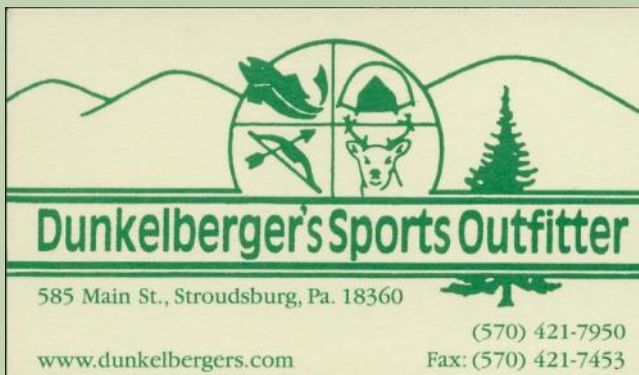
A sincere thank you is extended to the following supporters of our Chapter as we work to preserve and protect the cold-water resources in the Poconos.



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**Thomas R Wilkins CEO**

**Office: 570-421-8950**



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business. For information and rates, contact**

**Eric Baird @**

**(570) 355-0165.**

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