



# Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

January 2025



January 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—Public Meeting: Bill Leonard presents: “Seven Mysteries of Devils Hole—Folklore, Tales, and Legends.” BCHC, 7 PM

March 28: Annual Banquet, 5:30 PM  
Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort.

April 5: Opening Day of Trout Season, 8 AM

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

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**Be A Part  
of Our  
Efforts in  
2025**



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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Larry Ott



*The Home Pool*

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

e-mail: [russ@thrall3.com](mailto:russ@thrall3.com)

570-620-8677

Members and Friends,

Happy New Year! hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

We've finally started to get some precipitation in December and have even had a little bit of snow. The stream flow gauges in Monroe County are finally showing some improvement over the lows in October and November. Some gauges show discharge flows at or very near their historic median levels in the days after we get a precipitation event.

Recently, the discharge data was discontinued for the Pocono Creek gauge. If you're used to thinking in cubic feet per second (CFS) discharge to determine where and when you want to fish along Pocono Creek or nearby streams, go to page 10 for a handy chart that plots the historical flow rate to gauge height so you can look at the current gauge height that is still posted online to determine what the CFS is for the Pocono.

While stream levels are up, keep doing those rain or snow dances though as the PA Department of Environmental Protection still lists Monroe County in the Drought Watch category. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) drought monitor shows the northwest corner of the county on the Pocono Plateau as Abnormally Dry and the rest of the county in a Moderate Drought as of the map released January 9. That's an improvement from Moderate Drought on the Plateau and Severe Drought just last week.

Finally, take a look at the upcoming events calendar on page 11. We've got a busy few months planned.

I hope I'll see you at an event in the near future!

Tight lines,

Russell

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Gerry Bortz

Ed Filipkowski

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

**New Members**

The chapter welcomes new members Brandon Hendershot, Leslie Touchton and David Yarosh. We can't wait to work with you on our mission. Welcome aboard!

**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.



join

**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.

Brad	Ace	Joseph	Pipolo
Donald	Baylor	Barbara	Roberts
Jeffrey	Feick	David	Roy
Brandon	Hendershot	Russell	Thrall, III
Glen A	Lippincott	Leslie	Touchton

**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:** 245 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



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## Just a Reminder: 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 fly-tying 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**

### Notice: [Change of Regulations on Tobyhanna Lake](#)

(Inland trout regulations still apply prior to lake drawdown in spring 2025.)

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



**Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited #289**

**P.O. BOX 661, TANNERSVILLE, PA 18372**

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*Brodheadchapter@gmail.com*

December 17, 2024

Department of Environmental Protection  
Waterways and Wetlands Program  
Northeast Regional Office  
2 Public Square  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790

**Re: Joint Application for Pennsylvania Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit, Pocono Mountains Corporate Center North Warehouse (NPDES Permit Application No. PAD450158).**

The Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited (the Chapter) thanks the Department for the opportunity to provide comment on the identified Joint Permit Application. Brodhead Trout Unlimited's mission is 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. As such, the Chapter monitors activities and actions that directly and indirectly affect the water quality of trout streams, their tributaries, and their surrounding wetlands. This Joint Permit application is one such activity.

The proposed action for utilizing trenchless technology to install a forced sewer main will impact environmentally sensitive areas. Although the application specifies two impacted areas: Exceptional Value (EV) wetlands associated with Duckpuddle Run and a stream crossing of cold-water high quality (HQ) Hawkey Run, the Chapter believes it is important to note that the same technology will cross uplands that feed these wetlands and the stream. As such, the Chapter considers the entire proposed main to have an impact, not simply the wetland and stream crossing.

Multiple methods of trenchless drilling are currently in use and each has its own advantages and disadvantages. The unique geology of Coolbaugh Township, a function of glacial advance and retreat, poses challenges due to the mix of silt, sand and rocks ranging from the size of footballs to boulders several feet in diameter. The Chapter is concerned about inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to the surface, ground settlement, and subsidence and voids that could impact the natural flow of water to and through the Duckpuddle Run wetlands and Hawkey Run.

To some, the extent of these potential impacts on our area may appear trivial and relegated to a small area. To our Chapter, they are not. The proposed activity is within the ultimate headwaters – there is nothing “upstream.” Water that collects in the Duckpuddle Run wetlands flows from Duckpuddle Run to Lynchwood Lake, downstream through Hawkey Run to Hawkey Pond, through Stillwater Lake and into Upper Tunkhannock Creek. From there this water continues westward through Lake Naomi and Pocono Lake and into Tobyhanna Creek. But its journey does not end there. These former headwaters flow into the Lehigh River and then the Delaware River and off to the ocean.

The Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited believes every small change that happens in our headwaters and wetlands influences waterways downstream. Because of the potential harm to EV wetlands and an HQ headwater stream, and the areas surrounding them, we urge the Department to review this joint permit application with the utmost scrutiny. Should the Department find deficiencies or concerns in any portion of the plans, we recommend that the joint permit application be denied.

We thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd G. Burns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Todd G. Burns  
Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

## 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 the Vice President for Volunteer Operations, or to 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://www.tu.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/E-Poster.jpg>

or call **1-855-662-SAFE**.

A blue square with a white border containing the text "Trout Unlimited Ethics Hotline" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Trout  
Unlimited  
Ethics  
Hotline**

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





# January Fishing Outlook

Brrrrr. We've hit a period of really cold weather but our streams finally have some water in them. So if you can keep warm enough to tie a clinch knot or blood knot, you may find some success.

It's winter, it's cold, so keep in mind that shelf ice along our stream edges poses several issues for the wading angler. For starters, it's ice so it's slippery. Cleats or spikes on your wading shoes will help. Additionally, shelf ice varies in thickness as it comes out from the shore and it may (will) collapse if you try to walk on it. Don't. And finally, that shelf ice can have sharp edges that won't think twice about slicing those \$600 waders! Winter fishing requires some extra caution so please be careful out there.

You won't find any hatches coming off in 25 degree weather so focus your presentations under the surface. As we stated in the last issue, it's always a good bet to start with your "comfort" fly or lure, the one in which you have the most confidence. Unless the water is elevated, downsizing your presentation can help if the fish are finicky and the stream is crystal clear. That water may be 34-36 degrees but if you get something close by that looks like food, the trout will be interested.

Black or purple (yes, purple!) midge pupae patterns have been known to work in our streams during the winter as do small hare's ears, stonefly patterns, woolly buggers and streamers.

During extended cold periods, it's a good time to check your equipment and supplies, see what you might need and experiment when you hit the tying desk. The photo at right shows a pattern our member Todd Burns developed and tested this past December on several local streams. He reports he's going to tie some more—they must have worked! (Hint: size #16—#18 and fire orange thread.)

Be careful out there and tight lines.



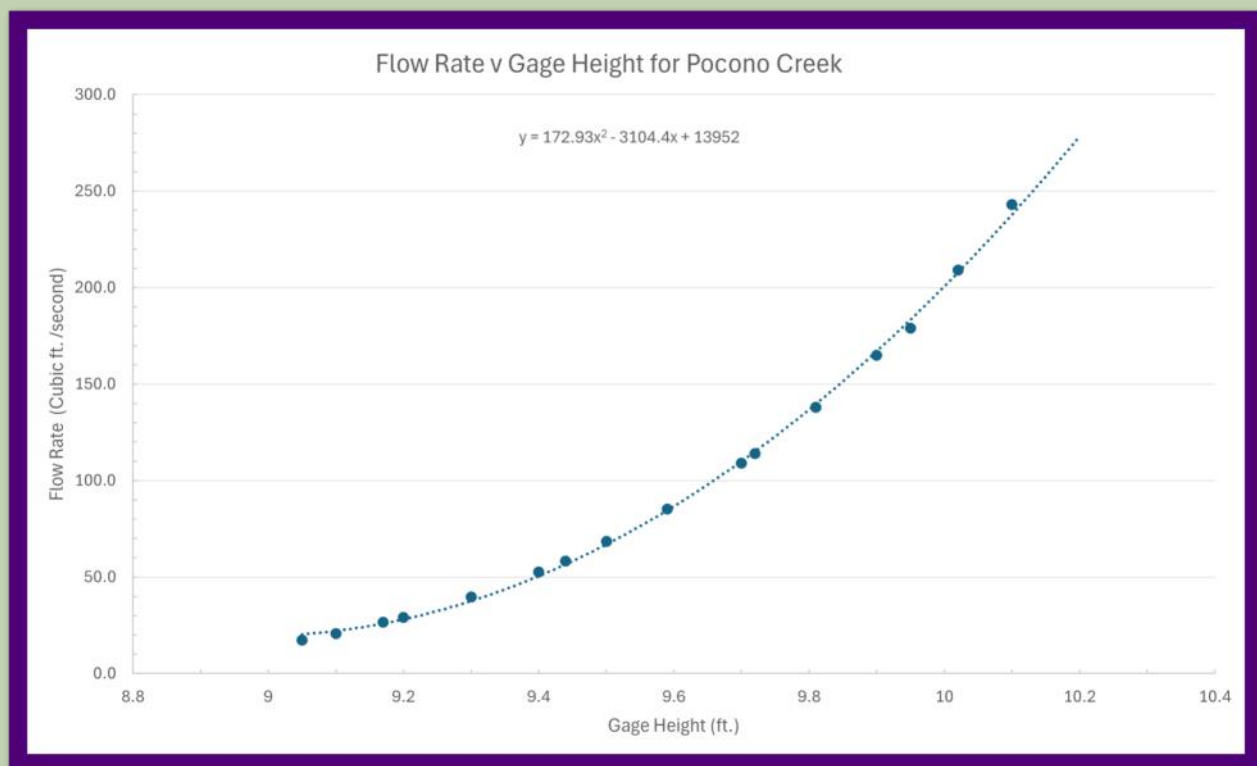


# Pocono Creek Stream Gage

## Pocono Creek Gage Height to CFS Conversion Graph

Many of you may refer to the USGS stream gage on Pocono Creek at Shaffer's Schoolhouse Road in order to determine which stretch of this or another nearby waterway you will want to fish. Recently, the readings for the online, real-time flow in cubic feet per second (cfs) were discontinued. Fortunately, the gage height sensor still posts online data. Using historical measurements, we've produced a graph that will allow you to convert the current gage height to cfs flow rate. Simply [go online](#), find the gage height value, locate that value on the chart below, and "draw" an imaginary line vertically from this value. Where that line crosses the dotted trendline will give you your virtual cfs from the y-axis.

For example: If the current gage height is 9.70, you would locate 9.70 on the x-axis, move vertically until you hit the curved line. The y-value at that point is the cfs. In this case, that is about 110 cfs.



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EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2025



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

**January 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. “Seven Mysteries of Devil’s Hole—Folklore, Tales, and Legends”, BCHC. 7 PM. Let us know you will be coming. [“I’ll be there.”](#)**

**March 22—Introduction to Fly Fishing, with KCEEC, starting at 9 AM at BCHC. [Register.](#)**

**March 28—Annual Spring Banquet, Shawnee Inn. Register [HERE.](#)**

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

**April 26—Riparian Buffer Maintenance: Polk Township Walking Park, 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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