



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

December 2025



December 10: Chapter holiday party. Lakeside, Saylorsburg. [Register.](#)

December 15: Brodhead Fly Tyers, BCHC, 6 PM.

January 8: Board of Directors Mtg, BCHC, 7 PM

January 10,17,24,31: Introduction to Fly Tying classes. 9 AM

February 5: Board of Directors Meeting, BCHC 7 PM

February 7,14: Introduction to Fly Tying classes. 9 AM

March 27: Annual Spring Banquet at Skytop Lodge. 5:30 PM

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*May Your Holidays
Be Blessed With
Peace and Joy*

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,

As we close out 2025, I'm grateful for the people who keep this chapter moving—on the water, in our classrooms, and out in the community. Before anything else, please join me in thanking **Todd Burns** for his many years of service as our **newsletter editor**. Todd helped evolve *Streamside Asides* into the full-color, link-rich publication you're reading today, and he's told our chapter's story with clarity and heart. Thank you, Todd, for the countless late nights, careful edits, and steady leadership behind the scenes.

A quick reminder: our **Chapter Holiday Party is Wednesday, Dec. 10 at The Lakeside in Saylorsburg**. It's a relaxed evening to see friends, swap fish stories, and look back at a busy year.

If you're looking for ways to plug in this winter, we have plenty:

Brodhead Fly Tyers meets **Monday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.** at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center—bring a vise or just come to learn.

Our **Introduction to Fly Tying** course runs **Saturday mornings Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31**, with **Feb. 7 and 14** sessions to follow; instructors and mentors are always welcome.

We're supporting **The Mayfly Project**; if you're interested in mentoring youth in foster care through fly fishing—or helping with logistics and outreach—reach out and we'll connect you.

Behind the scenes, volunteers are needed to help with social media and web communications, program support, and planning for our **Annual Spring Conservation Banquet at Skytop Lodge on March 27**—our signature fundraiser for conservation and education. Whether you can give a morning, a meeting, or a season, your time matters. Send me an email or call if you want to help.

Thank you for everything you've done this year—and for what you'll do in the year ahead. I hope to see you at Lakeside on the 10th.

Tight lines,
Russell

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DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Gerry Bortz
Ed Filipkowski

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



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New members! We welcome new member Bill Rose to our Brodhead TU membership roll. We look forward to seeing and working with you on our many activities.

If you know of someone who shares our interests, please send them the link to the right. New memberships are 1/2 price!



join

Renewing and Contributing Members

The chapter extends a sincere thank-you to the following individuals who have chosen to join, renew a membership or contribute to TU's mission. Your efforts in supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated.

Todd Burns
Ed Bustos
Carmine Cerra, MD
Jack Fossett
Brandon Hendershot
Richard Jackson
Bill Rose



Current Membership:

237Adults + 2 Youth



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BTU Activities for 2025 Almost Complete

Throughout the course of 2025, the Brodhead Chapter #289 of Trout Unlimited engaged in a variety of activities designed to educate, communicate, engage and inform members, friends and the greater Pocono community. Thanks to our community's support, the Chapter calendar was very busy. Below is a non-exhaustive list of some of our efforts.



1. Presented an Introduction to Fly-Tying Course, 5 sessions at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center
2. Held Tree Committee meetings to plan invasive species removals and plantings of native species in riparian areas.
3. Conducted public meetings (9) that explored fishing, conservation and local history topics.
4. Provided two Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshops to introduce members of our community to the wonderful world of fly fishing.
5. Assisted the Knights of Columbus with their annual children's fishing derby along the historic Brodhead Creek.
6. Participated in Monroe County Conservation District's Tap Talk.
7. Assisted Cub Scout Pack 90 with a Family Fishing Day.
8. Conducted a stream-side cleanup along Pocono Creek in Tannersville.
9. Engaged in two workdays removing invasive plants along Cherry Creek in the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
10. Instructed at the NDES trout release day at Pinebrook Park on the Brodhead.
11. Engaged in workdays maintaining riparian plantings at the Polk Township Walking Park, Polk Township and the Larsen Tract at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
12. Led four sessions of Fly Fishing-The Next Step for our beginning anglers.
13. Provided instruction and assistance in a weekend-long STREAM Girls program with local Girl Scouts along Paradise Creek on Paradise Falls Lutheran Association grounds.
14. Tabled at the White Haven Trout Festival in White Haven, PA.
15. Gathered for our annual picnic at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.
16. Built three habitat structures within Yankee Run in PHLT's Yankee Run Nature Preserve.
17. Presented at Monroe County's Youth Conservation Camp.
18. Instructed at a weekend Scouting Merit Badge session at Camp Minsi.
19. Tabled at the Quiet Valley Harvest Festival.
20. Led four sessions of a Fly Rod building class at Brodhead Creek Heritage Center.
21. Conducted a chapter hike in Child's Park along the beautiful Dingman's Creek.
22. Provided comments to PA DEP regarding permits for distribution center development, pipeline construction and renewals at wastewater treatment facilities.
23. And some we probably forgot!

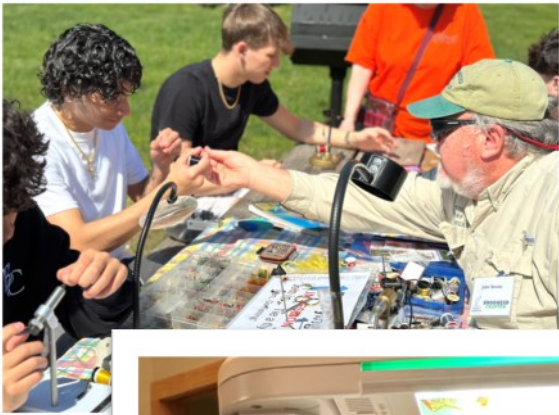
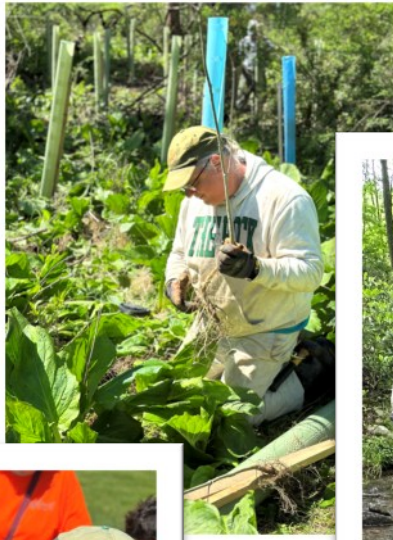
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BTU Activities 2025



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A Few Announcements...

- BTU member John Smith ties flies at Clymer Library (Pocono Pines) on most Fridays 10 AM - 1 PM and at Hughes Library (Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg) on most Mondays 1 - 4 PM. Tying is open to anyone. John carries a couple of spare vises and tools. Come pull up a chair and tie. Help us tell BTU's story and recruit some new members.
- The Older Adult Learning Center (TOALC) will offer a Basic Fly Tying course during its winter session. Visit www.theoalc.org to find out more. Winter schedule will be published soon. Classes are held at the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg.
- The Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited is partnering with The Mayfly Project. The Mayfly Project is a 501(c)(3) on a mission is to support youth in foster care through fly fishing, helping them build confidence, find healing, and connect to their local waters. The Mayfly Project has had a Scranton Project since 2015 and we are looking to spread the word and provide support to the Project. The Scranton Project is currently looking to fill three mentor positions and is always looking for funding so if you are interested and able, please check out the information below.

<https://themayflyproject.com/>

<https://themayflyproject.com/become-a-mentor/>

<https://themayflyproject.com/donate/>

- Newsletter editor Todd Burns is retiring from his position with the publication of this issue. He extends his sincere thanks to all who have supplied photos, text, and other assistance throughout the years. The current format has evolved from a simple, mailed 2-4 page black and white publication to a 10-12 page, full-color, online document complete with hyperlinks and other things not dreamed of years ago. Thanks also to former editors for their input and skills in developing this award-winning newsletter.

As he walks out the door, Todd wanted to reveal a little-known fact: the little wave with three trout under it beneath the front page banner is from the late Bob Stevens' newsletters. Bob was a charter member of the chapter and published the newsletter for many years.

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.



Proposed Additions to the Class A Trout Waters List.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission personnel have identified a few more stream sections with healthy, sustaining, Class A wild trout populations. Although not located in the Pocono region, these streams serve as a vital resource for their local communities and support for their addition to the state's list is encouraged. You can review the (short) list [here](#). To submit comments, see the directions below.

Comments on proposed changes 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.

Method to Comment On Proposed Regulatory Changes

To review the proposed changes in regulation, you need to navigate by following the steps below:

1. Click on this [Pennsylvania Bulletin link](#). (Or the link highlighted above.)
2. Under "BULLETIN", select the most recent volume.
3. Select the pertinent issue(s).
4. Select "Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission" from the menu. You will see any pending proposals as a hyperlink. Select the proposal and it will 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 and Boat Commission](#)

[Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#)

[PennFuture](#)

[Pocono Heritage Land Trust](#)

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 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**.

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

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

**Trout
Unlimited
Ethics
Hotline**

December Fishing Outlook



Isn't that photo above a beautiful view of Brodhead Creek? And to those who fish, not only do they recognize the beauty of the scene, but they see stream bends, riffles, pools and runs...oh my!

Fishing in the winter months isn't hard, it's just cold. So if you dress for the temperatures of the water and the air, you'll be okay. A good base layer of thermal wear, some polyester or wool mid-layers and a good wind and rainproof outer shell and you should be fine. Oh, yes, warm socks and hat, too! And while we're at it, throw in your polarized sunglasses because winter glare can be intense.

From a safety standpoint, use a wading staff. Getting wet in May is a lot different than getting wet in December, January or February. Brrr.

Our native and stocked trout will eat year 'round. They can be quite hungry when the water is low and clear so don't think they just sit on the bottom and dream of mayflies all winter. We've already seen midge activity on the Brodhead and it's not surprising to see trout nosing those little morsels. So some Griffith's Gnats, chironomid pupae and the like in those #20-#22 sizes should get you started.



For those nymph lovers out there, the aforementioned midge pupae and small baetis and stonefly patterns will work. And, since we're post spawn, an egg pattern or two is good to have in your box. Streamers can work as well. And if you are spin casting, some small to mid-sized spinners can produce some really nice fish.

Hopefully you'll get out to enjoy what winter fishing has to offer us here in the Poconos. Be safe, stay warm, and tight lines to all.

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EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2025-2026



Visit <http://brodheadtu.org/events-and-registration/> or click on the links below.

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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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