



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

JANUARY 2026

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

February 11: Pies and Flies BCHC, 7 PM

March 11: Speaker Series: Jerry Daidone presents "Steelhead Fishing", BCHC, 7 PM

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



In this issue:

Happy Holiday!	1
President's Message	2
Membership Updates	3
2025 Activities	4
Announcements	5
Advocacy News	6-7
Fishing Outlook	8
Calendar	9
Advertisers	

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.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Russell Thrall III
159Swift Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-620-8677

VICE PRESIDENT

Stephan van de Loecht
123Keystone Rd.
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

SECRETARY

Eric Baird
267 3rd Street Pocono
Pines, PA 18350 (570)
355-0165

TREASURER

John Smith

BOARDMEMBERS

DonBaylor

ToddBurns

KathleenFlynn

Cathy Folio

Jim Houghton

IversKeller

Glen Lippencott

Brian McDonnell

Don Miller

LarryOtt



The Home Pool

Russell Thrall III, President

BrodheadChapter—TroutUnlimited #289

e-mail: russ@thrall3.com

570-620-8677

Members and Friends,

A new year is underway, and January is a good time to pause, take stock, and look ahead. Before diving into what's coming up, I want to recognize two people who play an outsized role in keeping our chapter connected. First, thank you to Todd Burns for his many years of service as newsletter editor. Todd shepherded Streamside Asides from a simple black-and-white mailing into the full-color, online publication you're reading today, complete with photos, links, and thoughtful organization. His steady work behind the scenes helped tell BTU's story month after month.

At the same time, I'm pleased to welcome Brian McDonnell, who has stepped in to take over the reins as editor. Brian has already jumped in with enthusiasm, and I know he'll continue the tradition of producing a newsletter that informs, educates, and keeps our members engaged.

Winter doesn't slow us down. Our Introduction to Fly Tying classes are well underway, and the conservation committee held a planning meeting to draft the schedule for 2026 stream habitat and riparian buffer work.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for Pies and Flies on Wednesday, February 11 at 7 p.m. at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. This has become a favorite mid-winter gathering - good flies, good conversation,, and yes, good pizza. Let us know if you plan to attend.

Tickets are also now available for our Annual Spring Banquet, set for March 27 at Skytop Lodge. This is our signature fundraiser and a major source of support for conservation, education and outreach.

Beyond the banquet, volunteer opportunities continue year-round - from fly tying nights and youth programs to conservation planning and communications support. If you have time to give, even occasionally, please reach out.

Thank you for starting 2026 with us.. I look forward to seeing many of you in the weeks ahead.

Tight lines,

Russell

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Gerry Bortz

EdFilipkowski

THANK YOU TOTHE
FOLLOWING
PAST- DIRECTORS FOR
THEIR RECENT
SERVICE:

JamesConnor
Ann Foster

Tim Fritz

Jeff Heberley

Greg Malaska

Daniel Steere

Arie VanWingerden Tom

Van Zandt

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New members! We welcome new members Mark Rader, Phillip Lazowski, John Grando, Jerome Langan, James Holbrook and Armand Martinelli 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 inteests, please send them the link to the right. Ne memberships are 1/2 price!



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.

David Yarosh
Shane Kocher
Joseph Pipolo
Leslie Touchton

Dennis Hill
Lisa Heelan
Mark Ruppen



Current Membership:

228 Adults + 2 Youth



To bring together diverse interests to care for and recover Pocono rivers and streams so our children and enjoy the joy of wild and native trout.

BTU Activities for 2026, Projected

A meeting was held recently to plan for, and brainstorm, conservation projects for the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The following list summarizes the potential projects to be started or completed during calendar year 2026. Please check the weekly calendar for associated dates.

1. Secure funding for Pomeroy McMichael's Creek Preserve Phase II. Work is tentatively scheduled for 2027.
2. Tank Creek, Kurmes Preserve. Continue to install stream improvement devices on PHLT property. Design and implementation is a Boy Scout Eagle Scout project. Several dates have been scheduled for presentations and work on this project.
3. Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Larsen Lane tract. Several work days have been scheduled for invasive plant removal, native vegetation planting, and planting maintenance.
4. Cherry Valley NWR, Headquarters Tract. A work day is scheduled to repair and maintain several existing stream flow deflectors. These deflectors had been constructed with discarded Christmas trees.
5. Middle Creek Polk Township Walking Park. Maintain existing riparian plantings.
6. Pocono Creek George at the Olive Learn Preserve and the Pocono Creek Nature Preserve, and Brodhead Creek Pinebrook Park. Site visits to plan for maintenance, repair, and further work to be completed on sites of past work.
7. Yankee Run and Tank Creeks. Further habitat improvement projects in addition to the BSA Eagle Scout project listed above.
8. McMichael's Creek in the vicinity of the Monroe County Correctional Facility. Trash cleanup.
9. Additional stream habitat improvement projects are contemplated on Black Creek, Martin's Creek, Jacoby Creek, and Tom's Creek.
10. Martin's Creek. Trash cleanup in cooperation with the Forks of the Delaware Chapter, TU.

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. Classes are scheduled for Wednesdays, January 28 to March 18, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Classes are held at the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg. Visit the TOALC.org for more information.
- 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 has retired 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.



Multiple companies have plans for data centers throughout our and adjacent regions of Pennsylvania. These centers have the potential to tax electrical grids and water supplies. Emilia Doda, a Scranton native currently living in southern California, has created an online GIS tool listing proposed, existing and canceled data center projects throughout the Commonwealth. The former Mosier's Farm area, listed as the Smithfield Gateway Project of Route 209, is in the Brodhead Creek watershed.

If you are curious about this issue, you can take a look at the tool she developed here:

[Pennsylvania Data Center Proposals](#)

And here is a link to a brief article about the creator, Emilia Doda:

[Meet the woman Who's Tracking Data Centers in Pennsylvania](#)

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.

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://www.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**.

A blue square button with a white border. Inside the square, the text "Trout Unlimited Ethics Hotline" is written in white, centered, and stacked in four lines.

Trout
Unlimited
Ethics
Hotline

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

To bring together diverse interests to care for and recover Pocono rivets and streams
so our children and experience the joy of wild and native trout.

FISHING, FLIES AND TYING FEATURE

WINTER FISHING AND SAFETY

Have you ever been on a stream and thought, "I know this stretch", only to remember you've never been here before? That is what a lot of small stream fishing is like. The cover photo could be from any number of small Class A trout streams in northeast Pennsylvania: the swift current running into a tangle of roots, the flow veering off the other way, only to turn again into the next riffle. With adequate flows, small streams can be some of the most fun and productive stream fishing in the winter. And there is usually considerably less chance of a dangerous dunking.

FEATURED FLIES FROM BRODHEAD FLY TYERS

The theme from the monthly fly tyers meeting in December was articulated flies. Most articulated flies are streamers. The addition of a second hook lashed to the front hook adds length and motion to a large bait. However, articulated nymphs are effective too. Some nymphs wiggle and swim quite actively; separating the head and thorax from the abdomen and tail can mimic this motion, make a good pattern better. Give them a try!



Featured flies is a new newsletter feature, highlighting flies tied at the Brodhead Fly Tyers monthly meeting. It is intended to inspire creativity, not to suggest duplication. To all fly tyers out there: please consider attending the monthly fly tyers meeting. It is an entertaining and educational meeting with several talented fly tyers. Check the chapter calendar for date, time and theme.

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.

EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2026



January 31 and February 3, Intro to Fly Tying classes 3 and 4 of 6, BCHC, 9 AM

February 5, Board of Directors Meeting, BCHC, 7 PM, all welcome

February 11, Pies and Flies, BCHC, 7 PM, please let us know if attending!

February 16, BCHC, Brodhead Fly Tiers, BCHC, 6 PM. All welcome!

March 11, Speaker Series, Jerry Daidone Presents Steelhead Fishing, BCHC, 7 PM

March 19, Brodhead Fly Tyers, BCHC, 6 PM, theme TBA.

March 27, Annual Spring Banquet, Skytop Lodge, 5:30. Please contact potential donors for prizes and raffle items. If you acquire an item, please forward the details to Todd Burns (salmofisher7@gmail.com). Thank you! More info coming soon!

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.

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.



SERVING THE POCONO MOUNTAINS
SELLING HOMES SINCE 1988

Thomas R Wilkins CEO

Office: 570-421-8950



KEN & COMPANY
AVEDA SALON & SPA

507 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Phone (570) 421-8077 • Fax (570) 421-8227
www.Kenandcompany.com



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

Eric Baird @

(570) 355-0165.

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.