



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

FEBRUARY 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 21: Intro to Fly Fishing

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



In this issue:

Cover	1
President's Message	2
Membership Updates	3
Announcements	4
Advocacy News	5-8
Fishing Outlook	9
Calendar	10
Advertisers	11

SPECIAL NOTE: The extended trout season closes on February 15. There may be changes to regulations governing special regulation streams. Read the posted signs at access points and along the streams, and check the regulations booklet at:

2026 PA Summary Book

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

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Members and Friends,

February can feel like the “quiet season,” but it’s often when some of our most important work happens—especially advocacy. This issue includes two timely letters that reflect how Brodhead TU shows up for coldwater streams even when we aren’t standing in them.

The first requests a **public hearing on the NPDES permit** for the Manwalamink Wastewater Treatment Plant, which discharges into our namesake Brodhead Creek. When a permit has the potential to affect water quality in a trout stream, transparency matters, and public questions should be welcomed.

The second letter urges continued support for the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, which helps protect public lands and expand access to places anglers and families depend on—including projects right here in Pennsylvania. Thank you to Todd Burns and everyone who helps keep BTU engaged on these issues.

While we’re watching the policy side, we’re also building momentum for spring. Tickets are available now for our **Annual Spring Banquet on March 27 at Skytop Lodge**, our signature fundraiser supporting conservation, education, and outreach. We can always use help securing prizes and raffle items—if you can approach a business you frequent, ask a contact, or donate an item, please do. Every donation helps strengthen the banquet and the work it funds. Email or call me if you have any questions!

There are plenty of ways to volunteer between now and then. We’re always looking for extra hands for programs like **Intro to Fly Fishing** and other events. If you’d like to volunteer in a way that fits your schedule—events, youth programs, conservation days, communications, or advocacy—please reach out.

Even in winter, the mission doesn’t pause. Thank you for staying engaged, speaking up for clean water, and supporting the chapter’s work in the months ahead.

Tight lines,

Russell

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 member! We welcome new member to our Brodhead TU membership roll. Gary Magyar has joined our Chapter. 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 at right. New memberships are half 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.

Alego Bartolacci
Joel Miller
Ed Kepczynski
Brian Daniels



Current Membership:

235 Adults + 3 Youth



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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. 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/>

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

This is the second newsletter compiled by the new editor. I thank former editor Todd Burns for all his past work, and for his assistance with the transition of this position to me. I hope to keep the newsletter a valuable resource for our members and partners, and will keep the format largely the same as that we have grown to know and love.

However, there will be one change in how the newsletter is delivered to you, our members and valued partners. In recent years, all members and partners received a print copy of the monthly newsletter in February or March. This is a significant cost to the Chapter, and over 80 percent of you received a print copy and an emailed copy. Beginning in March 2026, we will only be mailing a hard copy to about 50 persons who either do not have email or who have requested not to receive electronic mail. This new policy will save the Chapter several hundred dollars, funds that will be used for our conservation work. We will be printing about 75 extra copies that will be available at any of our events and at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. If you have comments about this policy change, please email them to me at: bmcd.6384@gmail.com.

Thanks! BFM

News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest

Chapter Advocacy Chair Todd Burns recently sent two letters of interest. The first is requesting a public hearing on the relicensing of the sewage plant at Shawnee. It is reprinted below without the letterhead and other formal formatting. The second is a letter to members of Congress in support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This letter can be found on the next 2 pages.

As was listed in the last newsletter, there are several data center proposed for our region. An online GIS application documenting existing, proposed and withdrawn data centers in PA can be found at this address:

Pennsylvania Data Center Proposals

Also of interest are recent proposals to convert commercial warehouses to detention centers. Our concern is that the warehouses' sewer and water resources were not planned and built to support potentially several thousand persons. We will be monitoring this issue.

PA Department of Environmental Protection

Attn: Allison Zukosky Project Manager

2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

azukosky@pa.gov

Re: Request for Public Hearing NPDES No. PA0061786 – Manwalamink Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Ms. Zukosky: The Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited (BTU) works to protect the cold-water resources in the greater Pocono region. As such, we routinely monitor permit requests on waterways within our area. Therefore, I write for BTU and request a public hearing for NPDES permit #PA0061786 – the Manwalamink Wastewater Treatment Plant. This facility's effluent is discharged directly into Brodhead Creek at this location.

Because Brodhead Creek is, historically and currently, a centerpiece of trout fishing and recreation in the Pocono region, and because effluent from this facility directly impacts the stream, we believe this permit request should be carefully reviewed and public comment and questions be entertained.

We appreciate the Department's consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Dear Member of Congress,

As organizations concerned with conserving Pennsylvania's public lands and heritage, we are writing to thank you for your conservation leadership and to urge you to continue fighting for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and to protect it from damaging changes. We look forward to working with you to save the legacy of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) and ensure that LWCF remains a successful program for creating increased access to public lands in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

As you know well, LWCF is our most important tool for conserving America's public lands, including our national parks, forests, refuges, and Bureau of Land Management lands, and for supporting our state and local parks, forests and wildlife areas. From Gettysburg National Military Park to the Appalachian Trail and Allegheny National Forest, from the Flight 93 National Memorial to the Delaware Water Gap, LWCF funding has helped ensure some of Pennsylvania's most unique public landscapes remain intact.

Thanks in large part to your efforts, enactment of GAOA in 2020 finally unleashed the true strength of this incredibly successful bipartisan program through permanent, dedicated funding of LWCF. This landmark legislation directly addressed several of the most urgent conservation, recreation access, and funding problems facing hunters and anglers, outdoor businesses, and recreationists. GAOA also provided for state and local recreation projects, working forest and ranching easements, and protection of our unique American history. President Trump's signing of the GAOA was a historic accomplishment that jumpstarted conservation investment in Pennsylvania, expanding critical recreation access in places like Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Big Savage Tunnel along the Great Allegheny Passage, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, and through numerous Highlands Conservation Act projects which are all funded by LWCF.

In Pennsylvania, LWCF funding has been critical to keeping our private forests working and accessible for outdoor recreation through the Forest Legacy Program. Pennsylvania has received \$12.6 million in Forest Legacy funding over the history of the program, protecting 9,700 acres.

Similarly, the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program has provided crucial support for state and local park acquisitions and expansions, and for developing recreational facilities for all Pennsylvanians. More than 1,500 LWCF state-assistance grants have benefited state and local community parks across Pennsylvania, supporting close-to-home recreation and providing public health benefits. Additionally, LWCF's Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program has supported parks for communities most lacking outdoor recreation opportunities.

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Pennsylvania's natural resources make it a place people want to live and work, as well as a renowned vacation destination. Our communities enjoy innumerable benefits from proximity to forests, parks, refuges, coasts, trails and other areas for hiking, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, camping, wildlife viewing, paddling, and mountain climbing. Continued LWCF investment for public land protection and outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania is crucial to ensuring this legacy and important driver of our economy. Today, outdoor recreation activities generate \$18.9 billion in annual revenue to Pennsylvania, supporting 168,322 sustainable jobs. More than 5 million people hunt, fish or watch wildlife in Pennsylvania each year, spending over \$5.4 billion on wildlife-related recreation alone.

LWCF is a visionary and bipartisan program, created by Congress in 1964 to ensure that a small fraction of federal leasing revenues from the Outer Continental Shelf is reinvested in permanent natural resource protection. For most of the program's history, LWCF was consistently underfunded with dedicated revenues diverted to unauthorized purposes, creating a \$21 billion shortfall. Thankfully, dedicated LWCF funding provided through GAOA has begun to address the backlog of unmet conservation and recreation needs and answer a long line of willing-seller landowners and community stakeholders who are clamoring for access to these funds. Since enactment of GAOA, Pennsylvania, and every state in the nation, has benefited from consistent and dependable annual LWCF funding, as the original LWCF Act intended.

Despite the incredible success of GAOA, we remain vigilant to pressing threats to LWCF. We know you share our concern over actions taken by some officials in the Administration to delay projects already funded by Congress and place unnecessary restrictions on future uses of LWCF. As Congress works to reauthorize the Legacy Restoration Fund, it must ensure the future of LWCF remains strong by defending against proposals to weaken this incredibly successful program, and we are counting on your leadership in that effort. Given the Administration's stated intent to constrain implementation of LWCF and divert funding to non-LWCF purposes, we strongly urge you to vigorously oppose all attempts to limit LWCF and the conservation and public access successes it has provided and can continue to provide in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to working with you to protect LWCF for future generations of Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

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**.

**Trout
Unlimited
Ethics
Hotline**

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FISHING, FLIES AND TYING FEATURE

WINTER FISHING?

From mid-January until early February, our region has had real winter weather, making local stream fishing questionable, at best. Ice fishing has been about the only local choice. Therefore it is a good time to get your gear in order. Spinning and fly reels might want some care: new lines, greased, and maybe a general cleaning. Rods can be checked for burs and rough spots on the guides. Maybe consider replacing lures' treble hooks with inline single hooks. For many of us, though, winter weather brings plenty of fly tying. A good time to fill our boxes with standard patterns, and to experiment with new patterns. A great resource is our Chapter's monthly fly tying night.

FEATURED FLIES FROM BRODHEAD FLY TYERS

The theme from the monthly fly tyers meeting in January was winter nymphs. Winter nymph fishing can be surprisingly good. The trout are still in the water and they're going to eat. The assembled group tied a wide variety of winter nymphs, from large stonefly nymphs and other generally imitative nymphs to impressionistic nymphs bearing bright hot spots. For whatever reason, winter trout are sometimes even attracted to flies in colors you wouldn't normally use in the rest of the year.



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EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2026



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

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

March 16, Brodhead Fly Tyers, BCHC, 6 PM, theme TBA.

March 21, Intro to Fly Fishing, BCHC, 9 AM. Contact the Chapter to register or volunteer at the event. (brodheadchapter@gmail.com)

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!

April 15, Mike Komara Presenting "Euro nymphing and Competition Style Dry Fly Fishing", BCHC, 7 PM.

April 20, Brodhead Fly Tyers, BCHC, 6 PM, theme TBA.

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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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