



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

MARCH 2026



QUICK CALENDAR

March 16: Brodhead Fly Tyers

March 21: Intro to Fly Fishing

March 27: Annual Spring Banquet 5:30 PM

April 5: Opening day

April 11: KOC Children's Fishing Contest

April 15: Speaker Series: Euro nymphing and Competitive Style Fishing

April 18: Invasive Plant Removal

April 20: Brodhead Fly Tyers

See page 11 for links



In this issue:

Cover	1
President's message	2
Membership updates	3
Announcements	4
Pics	5
Advocacy, etc	6-7
Fishing feature	8-10
Calendar	11
Advertisers	12

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.

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Members and Friends,

It's March, and spring is almost here. The days are getting longer, the snow is mostly melted and we had some rain, and the chapter calendar is about to get very busy. Before we know it, we'll be wading our favorite runs again — but first, there's a lot happening between now and then.

This week, on March 11 at 7 p.m. at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, Jerry Daidone will be presenting on steelhead fishing as part of our Speaker Series. Jerry is well known in the steelhead community and this should be an informative and entertaining evening. If you haven't registered yet, please do so through our events page.

Our Brodhead Fly Tiers group meets March 16 at 6 p.m. at BCHC — the theme this month is April Grays. Whether you're an experienced tier or just want to watch and learn, you're welcome to pull up a chair.

On March 21, we'll hold our popular Introduction to Fly Fishing class at BCHC starting at 9 a.m. This is one of our most rewarding programs — we cover the basics of equipment, knot tying, casting, reading water, and then head over to Zacharias Pond so students can put it all into practice. The \$5 fee supports the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. Pre-registration is required and we cap the class at 24 students, so don't wait. We can always use volunteers for this event as well, so if you'd like to help out, email us at brodheadchapter@gmail.com.

And then comes the big one. Our Annual Spring Conservation Banquet is March 27 at Skytop Lodge, doors open at 5:30 p.m. This is our premier fundraiser, and every ticket sold and every raffle item donated directly supports the conservation and education work we do throughout the year. If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, please visit our events page. And if you're able to approach a business you frequent about donating a prize or raffle item, please do — every contribution helps. Forward any details on acquired items to Todd Burns at salmofisher7@gmail.com.

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 members! We welcome new members to our Brodhead TU membership roll. Larissa Soroka and Colin Wrazien have 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.

Carl Galarce
Eric Baird
Stphan Van De Loecht
Thomas Rumore
Joseph Pipolo
Jamie Curcio



Current Membership:

234 Adults + 4 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. The last class will be on Wednesday, March 18, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Classes are held at the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg. John Smith has been conducting this training, and additional help is always welcome.

The Brodhead Chapter Trout Unlimited is partnering with The Mayfly Project. The Mayfly Project is a 501(c)(3) on a mission 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/>

GET INVOLVED!

The Chapter board is looking for a few interested persons for assistance. This is a great opportunity to get further involved with your Brodhead Chapter.

We are looking for an Assistant Treasurer, a person experienced with QuickBooks, general accounting and bookkeeping. A small business owner or bookkeeper would be a great fit.

We are also looking for a person to run our social media accounts and manage the Chapter website. Besides the website, we have active Instagram and Facebook accounts, and are hoping to be more active on TikTok and YouTube. Does that mean we need an older adult for Facebook and a teenager for TikTok?!

The Board of Directors also has a few committee chair vacancies. If you have an interest in any of the following topics, we would love to hear from you: Climate Change, Diversity, and Youth Education.

If you have the time and desire to get more involved in the Chapter, please email us at:

brodheadchapter@gmail.com

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CHAPTER ACTIVITIES IN PHOTOS



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News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest

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.

Pomeroy McMichaels Creek Nature Preserve update: The Board of Directors has approved the hiring of a contractor to coordinate and manage the start of Phase II of the stream improvement project on McMichaels Creek. The contractor will be responsible for pursuing funding for the project, and for managing the permits required for on site work. Once on site work commences, we intend to engage the contractor to oversee the day to day operations. When will this project begin, you ask? Best case scenario is fall, 2027. More realistically is fall, 2028, or beyond. The scope of Phase II is at least twice the that of Phase I.

The chapter has been maintaining stream flow deflectors in Cherry Creek at the Headquarters tract of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. These deflectors are constructed from discarded natural Christmas trees, and generally require annual maintenance. Unfortunately, we were unable to procure trees this year. If you have access to discarded trees, preferably free of tinsel and other decorations, keep the Chapter in mind at the end of the year.

The Chapter will be ramping up outdoors volunteer opportunities in April. On the 11th, we will be assisting the Knights of Columbus with their annual Children's Fishing Contest at the Brodhead Park. The Chapter's main role here is to manage the parking lot and registration table. On the 18th, we will be removing invasive plants at the Larsen Lane tract of Cherry Valley NWR. On the 25th, there will be a work day along Tank Creek, near Devil's Hole Rd. This will be an initial work day to accumulate the materials to construct cross vein devices later in the year. For details on these days, and to register, see the links on page 10, or the Chapter calendar on the website.

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**

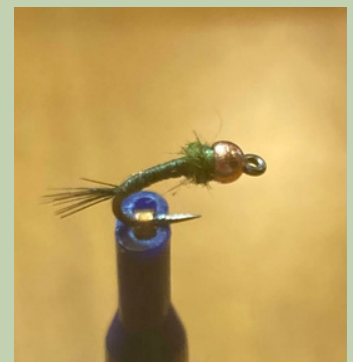
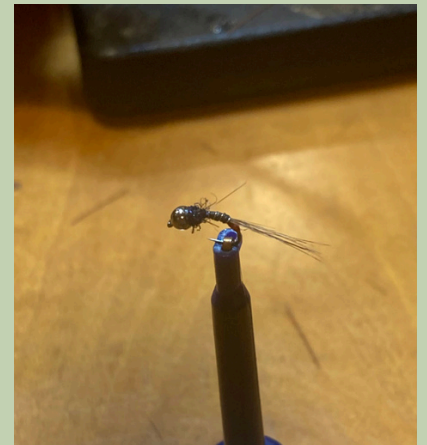
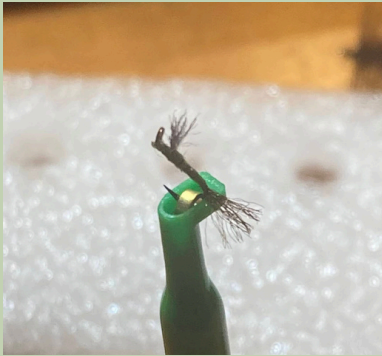
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FISHING, FLIES AND TYING FEATURE

The regular trout season is closed, but there are plenty of fishing opportunities available. Special regulation waters are generally open, either for artificial lures and flies or for fly fishing only. Lakes, ponds, and rivers and their resident warm water species may be productive, and American shad season is just around the corner. One idea is to look for slightly warmer water than the surroundings. Fish are often attracted to such areas, whether it is just the sunny shallows of a lake, pond, or stream, or a warm water discharge from industry. A few degrees change in water temperature can make all the difference!

FEATURED FLIES FROM BRODHEAD FLY TYERS

The theme from the monthly fly tyers meeting in February was early season flies, those that will be effective during the transition from winter to spring. The same flies that were effective through the winter will continue to work, but insect emergence will become more important. Midges will continue to emerge, and the mayflies and stoneflies will make an appearance as water temperatures warm. These will be the blue-winged olives and the early brown stoneflies. See Stephan's BWO paper on the next 2 pages.



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Late-Winter Baetis

on NEPA Freestones & Limestone Streams by Stephan van de Loecht

THE LITTLE BLUE - WINGED OLIVE

The Blue-Winged Olive—known to anglers as the BWO is found in nearly every cold-water stream in the state. For Northeast Pennsylvania anglers, the BWO is especially significant because it hatches reliably at a time of year when almost nothing else is on the water, drawing trout to the surface when most other insects are still dormant.

Identification

Nymphs: Baetis nymphs are slender, agile swimmers with three tails, an olive-tan body, and a distinctly darker head. They measure roughly 4–7 mm and are commonly found clinging to decomposing vegetation and gravel in riffles and moderate-current runs. Unlike many other mayfly nymphs that crawl along the bottom, Baetis nymphs are classified as swimmers.

Duns: The adult dun is a small, elegant mayfly (size 18–22, or roughly 4–7 mm) with an olive to gray-olive body and distinctive medium-gray upright wings—the “blue” wings that give the insect its common name. On cold days, freshly emerged duns sit on the water for a long time drying their wings, making them easy targets for feeding trout.

Lifecycle & Timing

Baetis are multi-brooded, producing two to three generations per year. This is unusual among Eastern mayflies and means the hatch recurs at multiple points in the season. In our region, the spring brood typically begins emerging in late February and continues through April. A smaller fall generation hatches in September and October, often coinciding with budding asters.

The spring emergence is triggered primarily by water temperature. Hatches can begin when water temperatures reach the low-to-mid 40s °F, which in our area often coincides with the first warm afternoons of late February or early March—roughly when forsythia begins to bud and coltsfoot starts to bloom. In colder weather, expect emergence in the late morning; during warmer spells, the hatch shifts to midday and early afternoon. Overcast, drizzly days with low barometric pressure tend to produce the heaviest and most prolonged hatches.

Local Waters

Baetis are among the most adaptable mayflies in the state—they colonize a remarkably wide range of habitats, from tumbling freestone creeks to fertile, weedy limestone spring creeks. In our chapter’s home waters, several streams produce dependable late-winter BWO activity:

- The Lackawanna River has strong BWO hatches starting as early as February, with some of the best surface fishing on overcast afternoons through March and into April.
- The Little Lehigh Creek, the Lehigh Valley’s premier limestone spring creek, supports excellent year-round Baetis populations and reliable hatches from late February onward.

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- The limestone creeks of the Lehigh Valley—Bushkill Creek (Easton), Monocacy Creek, and Saucon Creek—all hold healthy Baetis populations and fish well during the spring emergence.

DRY FLY PATTERNS

CDC Baetis Dun

Recipe

Hook	#18–22 standard dry fly (Tiemco 100)
Thread	Olive-gray 8/0 or smaller
Tail	DunMicrofibbets or Coq de Leon fibers, split
Body	Olivegray superfine dubbing, very thinly tapered or olive thread body on smaller sizes
Wing	TwoCDC feathers, natural dun
Hackle	None



Tying Notes

This is a minimalist pattern—resist the urge to overdress it. The body should be showing the thread color through wispy dubbing. Keep the CDC wing sparse: two feather tips posted upright or splayed in a slight V is plenty. CDC’s natural oils provide flotation without floatant, and its soft fibers create a lifelike footprint in the surface film that deer hair and synthetics cannot replicate. Tail length should match the shank. The goal is a fly that sits in the film rather than riding high on top of it, matching the natural dun’s low-riding posture.

NYMPH PATTERNS

Between hatches—and for the first half of most fishing days before the surface activity starts—subsurface Baetis nymphs are where the action is. After months of feeding almost exclusively on midges, trout are eager to key on these larger, protein-rich nymphs as they become active in the drift. This pattern below is designed to fish in the top twelve inches of the water column on a tight-line rig or under a small indicator.

Scud-Hook Thread Baetis Nymph

Recipe

Hook	#18-20 curved scud hook (Hanak 230 or similar)
Thread	Olive UTC 70 denier
Tail	Sparse olive partridge fibers
Body	Olive thread only - no dubbing
Thorax	Very sparse hare’s ear or olive superfine dubbing
Bead	Copper tungsten



Tying Notes

This is essentially a thread-body nymph on a curved shank—the simplicity is the point. Build a smooth, gently tapered body using only thread wraps. Keep the partridge tail very sparse: three or four fibers at most. The thorax should be a tiny pinch of dubbing.

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Brodhead Trout Unlimited Activities for 2026



EVENT DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

**Consult the Chapter's website calendar for these and all
upcoming events:
[Chapter Calendar](#)**

March 16, Brodhead Fly Tyers, BCHC, 6 PM, theme April Grays. [Register](#)

March 21, Intro to Fly Fishing, BCHC, 9 AM. Volunteer by email to brodheadchapter@gmail.com or [Register](#)

March 27, Annual Spring Banquet, Skytop Lodge, 5:30 [Get Tickets](#)

April 11, Knights of Columbus and Brodhead TU kids fishing day, Brodhead Creek Park, 8 AM. To volunteer, email to brodheadchapter@gmail.com

April 15, Mike Komara Presenting "Euro nymphing and Competition Style Dry Fly Fishing", BCHC, 7 PM. [Register](#)

April 18, Invasive Plant Removal, Cherry Valley NWR, Larsen Ln., 9 AM. [Register](#)

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

April 25, Stream Improvement Work Day, Tank Creek. 1 PM. [Register](#)

May 2, Delaware State Forest Resource Center and HQ tour, TBD at a later date.

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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. To advertise your business here, email the chapter at broadheadchapter@gmail.com



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