



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

APRIL 2026



QUICK

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

April 25: Stream Improvement Work Day, Tank Creek

May 2: Delaware State Forest visit and hike

See page 12 for links



In this issue:

Cover	1
President's message	2
Membership updates	3
Announcements	4
Banquet Pics	5
Banquet Sponsors	6
News/Advocacy	7-8
Fishing Feature	9-11
Calendar	12
Advertisers	13

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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The Home Pool

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Members and Friends,

What a night. Our Annual Conservation Banquet on March 27 at Skytop Lodge was the biggest and most successful banquet we've had since before the pandemic — the most attendees, the most engaged room, and the most funds raised to support the chapter's conservation work. I want to take a moment here to say thank you, because this one belongs to all of you.

Thank you to every member and friend who bought a ticket, filled a table, and showed up ready to have a good time. Thank you to the folks who brought family along, introduced a neighbor to the chapter, or reconnected with members they hadn't seen in a while. A banquet only works when people walk through the door, and you filled that room.

Thank you to the businesses, organizations, and individuals who donated the raffle and auction prizes. The total value of the donated items exceeded \$13,000 this year — an extraordinary number that reflects the generosity of our community and the relationships our members have built over many years. Please take a look at the list of donors on page six of this issue and, when you can, visit their shops, patronize their businesses, and let them know the Brodhead Chapter sent you. These are the people and businesses who keep stepping up for cold water conservation in the Poconos, and they deserve our support in return.

Thank you to the volunteers who made it all happen behind the scenes. Putting a banquet together is months of work — securing prizes, handling registration, setting up and breaking down, running the auction, and a hundred other small jobs nobody sees. Barb Roberts and Todd Burns deserve special thank-yous for leading the charge on prize solicitation and coordination, along with everyone on the banquet committee and every volunteer who pitched in on the day.

And thank you to Skytop Lodge for being a wonderful host.

Every dollar raised at the banquet goes directly into the work this chapter does — stream improvement, invasive plant removal, youth education, advocacy for clean water, and the conservation projects we have in the pipeline. That work doesn't happen without the banquet, and the banquet doesn't happen without all of you.

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 member! We welcome new members to our Brodhead TU membership roll. James Apgar 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 renew a membership or contribute to TU's mission. Your efforts in supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated.

George Nixon
James Bedford
Ronald Seyford



Current Membership:

232 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.

As BTU has done for many years, we will be assisting at the Knights of Columbus Children's Fishing Contest at Brodhead Creek Park on Saturday, April 11. If you can help us register kids and manage parking, please email the Chapter at brodheadchapter@gmail.com

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/>

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.

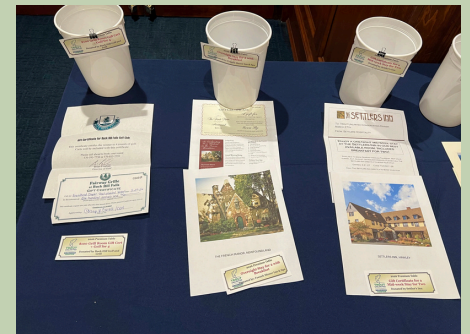
We are also looking for a person to run our social media accounts and manage the Chapter website. Besides the website, we have active Instagram and Facebook accounts, and are hoping to be more active on TikTok and YouTube. Does that mean we need an older adult for Facebook and a teenager for TikTok?!

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 CONSERVATION BANQUET



The Chapter's 2026 Annual Conservation Banquet was held at the Skytop Lodge on March 27th. The banquet was very successful; we had more attendees than we've had in quite a few years, and the total value of all raffle prizes exceeded \$13,000! If you attended, please accept our sincere thank you for your participation. If you did not, please consider attending in 2027. This is our most important fundraising event, with proceeds supporting your Chapter's conservation efforts. See the next page for a list of companies and individuals who contributed raffle prizes, patronize their stores, and thank them for their contributions!

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CONSERVATION BANQUET DONORS

AA Outfitters	A & G Outfitters
Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark	Amy, Caius and Eric Baird
Oscar, Mika and Jack Baird	Tim Bartholomew
Don Baylor	Bliss Beauty & Spa
Bhavnani & Reddy Family Fund	Blue Ridge Estate Vineyard
Brodhead Trout Unlimited	Buck Hill Golf and Fairway Grill
Todd and Jewel Burns	The Butcher Shoppe
Callies Candy Kitchen	Carazza's
Kelly Danges	Delaware River Highlands Conservancy
Dunkelberger's Sports Outfitters	Filingo Fly Fishing
First Place Cafe	The Forks at Buck Hill
Ann Foster	French Manor Inn & Spa
Golden Stone Outfitters	Great Wolf Lodge
Liztech Jewelry	Kalahari Indoor Waterpark
Momentum Fitness, BARC	Makuvek Fly Fishing LLC
Rick Nelson	Larry and Lisa Ott
Paradise Falls Lutheran Assoc.	Pennsylvania Rail Bike
Pohoqualine Fish Assoc.	Pocono Fly Fishing
Precision Fly & Tackle	Settler's Inn
Shawnee Playhouse	Skytop Lodge
John Smith	Stick2it Fly Tying
Edie Stevens	Tobyhanna Conservation Association
Stephan van de Loecht	Van Gorders Furniture

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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](#)

The Chapter will be ramping up outdoors volunteer opportunities in April. April 11 will see us assisting the Knights of Columbus at the annual Children's Fishing Contest at Brodhead Creek Park. On the 18th, we will be removing invasive plants at the Larsen Lane tract of Cherry Valley NWR. The monthly fly tying group will meet on April 20 and focus on caddisfly imitations. 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.

TU NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The National Leadership Council is surveying State and Regional Councils to define priorities for future concentration. The survey is broken into two broad categories, conservation priorities and organizational priorities. The overall goal is to "develop, amend, and help implement this 'National Conservation Agenda'. The NCA sets forth the highest priorities of TU's state councils and local chapters to help guide the entire TU organization - national and local staff, councils chapters, and members - to work together in carrying out TU's Mission:

To bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams
so that our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon."

The BTU executive board is addressing these issues for our specific area, to be compiled into PA state and then regional priorities. Stay tuned for more information on our local response to this initiative.

CHAPTER GATHERING and HIKE

On May 2nd, join us for a tour of the new Forest Resource Center at the Delaware State Forest District Office on Rt 402. A tour of the facility will be followed by a hike on a portion of the Thunder Swamp Trail in Delaware State Forest. Please see the chapter calendar for the link to the event, and let us know you intend to attend.

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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 has opened! There are likely plenty of folks on our local trout streams. One way to avoid the crowds is to fish during the week, or during bad weather, if possible. Or visit waters that are not as popular. A time proven method is to simply walk away from the nearest parking lot; often the crowds thin out as you get farther from the vehicle and parking lot.

FEATURED FLIES FROM BRODHEAD FLY TYERS

The theme from the monthly fly tyers meeting in March was the April grey mayflies. This generally consist of the blue quills, quill gordons and Hendricksons. Trout are pretty quick to turn on to these hatches, and can be caught on a variety of nymphs, emergers and duns. A generic pattern like the Adams in the proper size can be effective, but a more exact copy of what's on the water is likely to be better. Check out what the assembled group tied! For spinner falls, you can't beat a rusty brown spinner in the proper size. Carry them in size 12 through 16 should suffice.



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The Grannom Hatch, Stephan van de Loecht

on Pocono & Delaware Valley Freestones

THE FIRST BIG CADDIS OF THE SEASON

The Grannom—various *Brachycentrus* species—is the first significant caddisfly hatch on most northeastern Pennsylvania streams. Emerging in mid-April and continuing into mid-May, the Grannom often overlaps with the tail end of the Hendrickson mayfly and the beginning of the March Browns.

Identification

Larvae: Grannom larvae are tube-case makers. They build distinctive tapered cases that are square in cross-section, constructed from fine sticks and plant fragments—earning them the nickname “log cabin caddis.” The larvae themselves are bright green with brown heads, and they anchor their cases to rocks and woody debris in well-oxygenated riffles and runs.

Pupae: The pupae are dark green with dark slate-colored wing cases. When ready to emerge, they cut free of their cases and swim actively to the surface film—a behavior that makes subsurface imitations especially effective during the hatch.

Adults: Adult Grannoms are generally size 14. Most adults display a greenish-black body with mottled brownish-gray wings and dark legs. Coloration can vary by stream—on the Big Bushkill Creek and the Upper Delaware, adults may be lighter green with straw-colored wings (the variation is called Apple Caddis). Egg-laying females carry a conspicuous bright green egg sac at the tip of the abdomen, a key recognition feature on the water.

Behavior & Tactics

The Grannom presents a classic caddis-fishing puzzle: trout often ignore the newly hatched adults skating across the surface and instead feed aggressively on the rising pupae just below the film. If you see caddis on the water but your dry fly is being refused, the fish are almost certainly eating emergers and pupae. Dead-drift a green beadhead nymph or a Bird of Prey larva imitation through riffles on a tight-line rig, or swing soft-hackle wet flies through the runs.

Later in the hatch cycle, egg-laying females provide excellent dry-fly opportunities. The females fall helplessly to the surface as they attempt to shed their egg ball, making them easy targets. Imitate this stage by dead-drifting or gently twitching a Peacock Caddis, Elk Hair Caddis, or Henryville Special through the riffles and tailouts.

Local Waters

Grannoms favor well-oxygenated freestones and are found throughout the Pocono region and Delaware Valley. In our chapter’s home waters, several streams offer dependable Grannom activity:

- **The Brodhead Creek** holds Grannoms, though the lower public section sees relatively few.
- **Big Bushkill Creek** produces very heavy Grannom hatches and is one of the premier local streams for this caddis. Adults here can be lighter green with straw-colored wings (Apple Caddis).
- **The Upper Delaware** can see tremendous Grannom emergences including lighter-colored species sometimes called “Apple Caddis”.
- **Pohopoco Creek and the Lehigh River** both support good Grannom hatches, with the Lehigh capable of producing a solid mid-April to early May emergence in its upper sections.
- **Smaller Pocono-area streams** and middle and upper portions of the major creeks can be quite productive—Grannoms are often more numerous in these smaller waters than on the main stems.

(Cont.)

DRY FLY PATTERN

PEACOCK CADDIS RECIPE

HOOK #12–16 standard dry fly (Tiemco 100 or Dai-Riki 300)
THREAD Black 8/0 Uni-Thread
BODY Peacock herl
WING Natural deer hair, tied slightly past the bend
HACKLE Brown and grizzly, palmered or wound together at the thorax

The Peacock Caddis is a proven attractor-style dry that doubles as a convincing Grannom imitation. Keep the deer hair wing sparse enough that the fly lands gently—a heavy wing will cause the fly to spin on the cast.

NYMPH / PUPA PATTERNS

Because trout so often feed subsurface during the Grannom hatch—keying on drifting larvae and ascending pupae rather than the adults—a good nymph or pupa pattern is often more productive than a dry fly, especially in the first half of the emergence. The Bird of Prey is a versatile soft-hackle style that suggests the swimming pupa rising through the water column.

OLIVE BIRD OF PREY CADDIS PUPA RECIPE

HOOK 14–16 standard wet fly or IXL nymph hook (Tiemco 3761)
BEAD Small olive or dark green glass bead (optional)
THREAD Olive 8/0 Uni-Thread
TAIL None, or short emerger shuck type, your choice of color
RIB Fine copper wire
ABDOMEN Olive-green dubbing or olive embroidery floss, slender
THORAX Hungarian partridge or starling, one turn, swept back

The Bird of Prey is a soft-hackle wet fly designed to imitate the caddis pupa as it swims toward the surface.. The soft hackle should be sparse—just enough fibers to pulse and breathe in the current. Fish this pattern on the swing through riffles, or dead-drift it under an indicator through the runs where Grannoms are emerging.



Image courtesy of Dave Kile, PAflyfish.com

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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](#)**

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 caddisfly imitations. [Register](#)

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

May 2, Delaware State Forest Resource Center tour and hike, See calendar for link.

<http://www.brodheadtu.org/chapter-calendar/>

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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