



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

MAY 2026



QUICK CALENDAR

May 14: TIC release,
Cherry Valley NWR

May 18: Brodhead Fly
Tiers, BCHC

June 6, Chapter rummage
sale and picnic, BCHC

June 15: Brodhead Fly
Tiers, BCHC

June 20: Stream
Improvement Work Day,
Tank Creek

June 20, Riparian Work
Day, Cresco

June 27, Ladies Intro to Fly
Fishing BCHC

See page 11 for info and
links



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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,

May is here, and what a busy spring it has been. Thank you to everyone who turned out for our April events.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped run our Kids Fishing Day with the Knights of Columbus on April 11 at Brodhead Creek Park, those who turned out for the Invasive Plant Removal at Cherry Valley NWR on April 18, and the crew that braved Tank Creek for our Stream Improvement Work Day on April 25.

A special thank you as well to Mike Komara for his outstanding April 15 presentation on Euro nymphing and competition-style dry fly fishing, and to everyone who joined us May 2 for the Delaware State Forest Resource Center tour and hike. These efforts—whether they put trout in the water, invasive plants in the trash bag, or new anglers on the stream—are the heart of what we do.

Looking ahead, there's plenty more to plug into. On May 14 we'll release Trout in the Classroom fingerlings at Cherry Valley NWR—email brodheadchapter@gmail.com if you can help.

TIC release days are one of the most rewarding ways to spend a few hours, especially if you enjoy sharing what you know with the next generation of anglers and conservationists. Brodhead Fly Tiers meet May 18 at BCHC, with searching nymphs on the bench—whether you tie or just want to watch and learn, pull up a chair.

Mark your calendars for June 6 at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center in Analomink: our annual Rummage Sale runs 8 to 11 a.m., and the Chapter Picnic kicks off at 4 p.m. Stream and riparian work days follow June 20 at Tank Creek and Preacher Hill Road in Cresco, and Ladies Intro to Fly Fishing returns June 27.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do. See you on the water.

Tight lines,
Russell

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THEIR RECENT
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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New member! We welcome a new member to our Brodhead TU membership roll. Dave Wrazien 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 According to the national TU database, no existing members renewed or made a contribution to Brodhead TU during the month of April. If your membership has lapsed, or if you have the wherewithal to make a donation, please renew or make a contribution. Your efforts supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated and are critical to our future success.



Current Membership:

229 Adults + 4 Youth

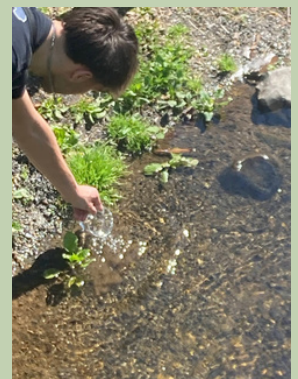


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A Few Announcements...

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 new members.

Tis the season for Trout in the Classroom (TIC) trout fingerlings release! Every school district in our area has at least one TIC program, usually hosted by a science or environmental science class. In brief, the class has a large aquarium with aerator and water filter. They receive rainbow trout eggs in January, and care for them from hatching to fingerling release. The release day may involve much more than simply releasing the fish into a local stream. Depending on the school, it may include electroshocking surveys, macro invertebrate collecting and identification, fly casting, stream physical and chemical characteristics monitoring, and fly tying. If you have time available during the school day on one of the release dates in May of next year, consider coming out. It is a lot of fun sharing our knowledge with the younger generation.



SAVE THE DATE!

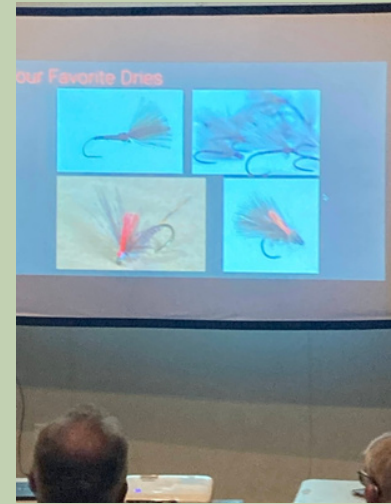
Two of our annual chapter events are coming up on June 6 at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. From 8 to 11 AM we are having our annual rummage sale. This is a chance to pick up some inexpensive fly tying materials, including hooks, thread, feathers, floss, dubbing, furs, and more. We also will have a variety of fly fishing gear available for you to browse through. And books! Did I mention books? The rummage sale will be in front of the garage. Cash and card accepted.

That same day, starting at 4 PM, we will have our annual picnic. There will be a casting competition, and a chance to fish. The chapter will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and condiments. Please bring a covered dish to share. Dinner is expected to start at 5, and the raffle pool and casting competition will begin at 6. The picnic will be on the back deck of the heritage center. Let us know you are coming by registering via the link on page 11.

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APRIL'S SPEAKER SERIES, MIKE KOMARA

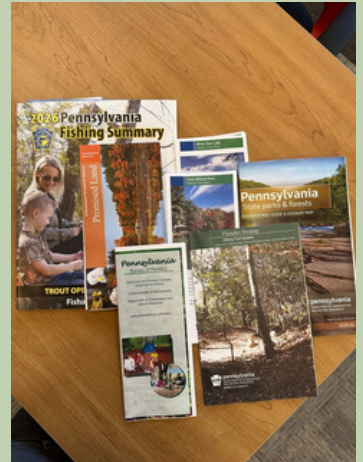
"EURO NYMPHING AND COMPETITION STYLE DRY FLY FISHING"



Mike Komara is a fly fishing guide, educator, and member of Fly Fishing Team USA, and is based in State College, PA. He presented an excellent talk on national and international fly fishing competitions, and the tactics and techniques used in such competitions. The competitions are often conducted on highly pressured waters to wary fish familiar with traditional modes of fly angling. Euro nymphing with long rods and leaders, using very fine tippet, is required to be successful. The nymphs used are generally fairly simple and impressionistic rather than realistic. Dry flies are similarly simple. Mike shared his views on this type of fishing, and is eager to share his experience with anglers here in the Commonwealth and elsewhere. We thank him for sharing with us his experience and knowledge. His presentation was eye opening for many of the attendees, and was well worth the time!

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CHAPTER HIKE AND DELAWARE STATE FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTER TOUR



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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](#)

We continue to follow proposals for new data centers, and scan the news for relevant stories. Here are two.

The Washington Post recently published a story on the plans for several data centers in and near Archbald, PA:

[WAPO Archbald-pennsylvania-data-centers](#)

There are also several stories of a large data center development adjacent to the Appalachian Trail in Middlesex Township, PA. Here is a link to one, and a simple internet search will yield several more:

[Penn Live: data center on theAT](#)

LOCAL STREAMS, INCREASED PROTECTION

In good news, the PA DEP is recommending increased protection for 530 miles of streams, changing the streams status to High Quality Waters, including several in our general region. Notably, over 5 miles of Martin's Creek, over 9 miles of Saucon Creek, and over 11 miles of Pohopoco Creek are proposed to be listed as High Quality Cold Water Fisheries, primarily for brown trout. Several other smaller streams, and unnamed tributaries to familiar streams, are proposed to have higher protections.

A waterway designated as High Quality triggers increased protection from external disturbance, such as from construction projects. It recognizes the exceptional value of the waterway, and strives to maintain its high quality value. The full report, including maps of all the stream reaches, can be found by clicking this link:

[PA Streams proposed for HQ](#)

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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**

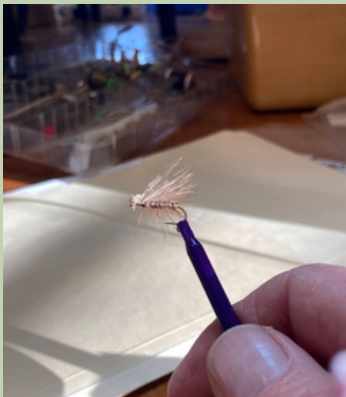
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FISHING, FLIES AND TYING FEATURE

The season has been underway for over a month, and fish have been caught. The Brodhead, Pocono and McMichaels have been yielding stocked and some stream bred trout. More anglers seem to be releasing trout than in the past, even stocked trout. The weather has been a bit unpredictable: warm for a couple days, then back to approaching winter for a bit. We're also in a bit of a drought here in the Poconos, being some 3 plus inches short of average. Some creeks have been unseasonably low, but at least the water temperatures have been cool.

FEATURED FLIES FROM BRODHEAD FLY TYERS

The theme from the monthly fly tyers meeting in April was caddisflies. The mayflies of April provide the first consistent and reliable dry fly fishing of the season. Then sometime at the end of April or the beginning of May the mayflies pause for a couple weeks, and caddisflies predominate. While most of the mayflies are named, most caddisfly hatches are described by color and size of hook. "What were you getting them on, a quill gordon?" "Nah, it was a tan caddis, about a 16." Anyway, here are some of the flies our assembled group were twisting up last month.



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Sulphurs on Pocono Waters, by Stephan van de Loecht

The Sulphur hatch is one of the most reliable and rewarding stretches of our season — a four to six week run that gives us steady evening dry-fly fishing well into June, on water that's right in our backyard.

Two Flies, One Name

Anglers refer to two related mayflies as “Sulphurs,” and on most Pocono streams we see both.

The Big Sulphur (*Ephemerella invaria*), is the larger of the two — typically size 14 to 16 with a creamy yellow body, sometimes carrying an orange tinge on streams like the Pohopoco and the Lehigh. The hatch begins in early to mid-May. Early in the season the duns often appear in the afternoon, but as the hatch progresses the bugs settle into a reliable evening emergence during the last hour of daylight.

The Little Sulphur (*Ephemerella dorothea dorothea*) takes over as the bigger fly winds down. These run smaller — size 18 to 20 — and almost always emerge late, often right at or after sunset. Look for them starting around May 20. Don't leave the water too early and miss this hatch.

Both species are well established on the Brodhead, McMichael Creek and most of our smaller Pocono streams, so chances are you don't have to travel far to find them. Upper Delaware and limestone creeks also have heavy hatches.

On the Water

Sulphurs typically emerge out of the riffles, so position yourself just below where a riffle spills into a pool and watch for rising fish.

Once fish begin working, three patterns will cover most situations: a **CDC emerger** for trout keying on bugs in or just under the surface film, and a **parachute dry** for fish taking the fully emerged duns. Sulphur nymphs often struggle to escape their shucks and drift helplessly in the current, which is why emerger and cripple patterns can outproduce a standard dry on selective fish. When the spinner fall overlaps with the dun emergence — common toward the back end of the hatch — try fishing a parachute dry with rusty spinner trailing off the back.

Two Patterns to Tie

- **Sulphur Parachute Dry Fly** — Size 14 -18 standard dry-fly hook, yellow thread, light dun tail fibers, yellow beaver-dubbed body, gray McFlylon post, and a light dun hackle. Sits flush, highly visible on the water, and a clean silhouette for fish taking duns.
- **Sulphur CDC Emerger** — Curved emerger hook, brown Antron shuck, fine copper rib, pheasant tail abdomen, light dun CDC loop wing, and a yellow beaver thorax. The shuck rides under the surface while the CDC and yellow thorax stay visible — a strong impression of an insect caught between stages.



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](#)**

May 14, TIC Release Day, Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. To volunteer, email to brodheadchapter@gmail.com

June 6, Brodhead Chapter Rummage Sale. BCHC. 8 AM to 11 AM.

June 6, Brodhead Chapter Picnic. BCHC. 4 PM. [Register](#)

May 18, Brodhead Fly Tiers. BCHC. Searching nymphs. 6 PM. [Register](#)

June 15, BrodheadFly Tiers, BCHC, 6 PM. Flies featuring turkey feathers. [Register](#)

June 20, Stream Improvement Work Day Tank Creek. 9 am to noon. [Register](#)

June 20, Riparian Buffer work day, 1 PM, Preacher Hill Rd, Cresco, PA [Register](#)

June 27, Ladies Intro to Fly Fishing, BCHC, 9 AM. [Register](#)

<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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