



Streamside Asides

The newsletter of the Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited

JUNE 2026



QUICK CALENDAR

June 13: White Haven
Trout Festival

June 15: Brodhead Fly
Tyers, BCHC

June 20: Stream
Improvement Work Day,
Tank Creek

June 20, Riparian Work
Day, Cresco

June 27, Ladies Intro to Fly
Fishing BCHC

July 11: Stream
Improvement Work Day,
Yankee Run

See page 10 for info and
links



In this issue:

Cover	1
President's message	2
Membership updates	3
Announcements	4
News/Advocacy	5-6
Fishing Feature	7-9
Calendar	10
Advertisers	11

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
159 Swift Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-620-8677

VICE PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

John Smith

BOARDMEMBERS

Don Baylor

Todd Burns

Kathleen Flynn

Cathy Folio

Jim Houghton

Ivers Keller

Glen Lippencott

Brian McDonnell

Don Miller

Larry Ott



The Home Pool

Russell Thrall III, President

Brodhead Chapter—Trout Unlimited #289

e-mail: russ@thrall3.com

570-620-8677

Members and Friends,

June is here and we have a busy spring behind us to celebrate.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped release Trout in the Classroom fingerlings at Cherry Valley NWR on May 14. Watching students send "their" trout into the wild never gets old, and your time made it happen. Thanks also to the Brodhead Fly Tiers who filled the bench with searching nymphs on May 18—you'll find some of their handiwork featured in this issue.

And what a day June 6 turned out to be! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated items, staffed tables, and shopped our annual Rummage Sale, and to all who came later for the Chapter Picnic. A thunderstorm warning sent us indoors, leaving me alone on the deck manning the grill—thankfully the bulk of the burgers and dogs were done before the sky opened up. The casting competition was a washout, but the covered dishes, good company, and stories inside made for a fine afternoon anyway. That's the chapter at its best.

There's no time to rest. This Saturday, June 13, the fourth annual White Haven Trout Festival runs 11 AM to 4 PM at St. Patrick's Church—admission is free, and several of our members will be there, so stop by and say hello.

Brodhead Fly Tiers meet June 15 at BCHC with terrestrials on the bench. June 18 we have a workday doing some maintenance on brush deflectors on Cherry Creek. June 20 is a doubleheader: stream habitat construction on Tank Creek at 9 AM, followed by riparian and invasive work on Mill Creek in Cresco at 1 PM. Come for one or make a day of both. The Ladies Intro to Fly Fishing returns June 27 at BCHC, and on July 11 we'll be back on Yankee Run building cross vanes and placing boulders—sledgehammer arms especially welcome.

Registration links are on page 10. Thank you, as always, for everything you do.

Tight lines,
Russell

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THANK YOU TO THE
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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES, MAY 1 to JUNE 1

New members! We welcome new members or changes to membership types to our Brodhead TU membership roll. Jere Hoover, Jake Reder, and Rohan Woodward 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 members listed have renewed their membership, changed membership type, or contributed to the mission of the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Your efforts supporting our education, conservation, and advocacy efforts are greatly appreciated and are critical to our future success.

**Frank Abella
Rohan Woodward
Jake Reder**



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 new members.

SAVE THE DATES!

The fourth annual White Haven Trout Festival will be held on Saturday, June 13 at St. Patrick's Church, 11 Allegheny St, White Haven, from 11 AM to 4 PM. The festival will feature displays and representatives from Trout Unlimited chapters, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, DCNR, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, and several other organizations. Activities include fly tying demonstrations, casting instruction, nature hikes, crafts for children, and more. Some folks from Brodhead Chapter TU will be in attendance. Admission is free.

The monthly Brodhead Fly Tyers meeting will be on June 15 at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. The theme will be terrestrials. Start time is 6 PM. Register via the link on the calendar, page 10.

Saturday June 20 will be busy! Join the group at Tank Creek (Devil's Hole Road) at 9 AM for a few hours constructing cross vanes for habitat improvement. Follow that by helping repair and maintain an invasive species removal project on Mill Creek in Cresco starting at 1 PM. See the calendar on page 10 to register for either (or both!).

On June 27 a Women's Introduction to Fly Fishing will be hosted at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center. This fun course includes an introduction to fly fishing gear and equipment, knot tying, fly rod casting, trout stream insects and how to match your artificial fly to what the trout are eating, how to read the water, and where to fish in the Poconos. The morning session will be followed by an opportunity to practice your new skills by fishing at Zacharias Pond in the afternoon. Registration is required, and we have 24 student maximum. You will not have to have a PA fishing license to fish at Zachy's that afternoon; we have a waiver from that for the event. Register via link on page 10.

There will be a habitat improvement work day on Yankee Run (Devil's Hole Road) on Saturday, July 11, starting at 9 AM. We will be constructing several more cross vanes and placing random boulders in the creek. Persons who can operate a chain saw or swing a sledge hammer are especially welcome, but any and all help is appreciated! Register via the link on page 10.

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News Notes, Advocacy Opportunities, and Items of Interest

There are several data center projects proposed for our region. Due to the intense interest in this topic, the data center link below, an online GIS application documenting existing, proposed and withdrawn data centers in PA, will be listed for the foreseeable future:

[PENNSYLVANIA DATA CENTER PROPOSALS](#)

One of the concerns some people have with the development of data centers is the use of local surface or well water for cooling the equipment and centers. Developers have acknowledged this, and at least one data center developer is addressing the issue directly. You can read about how Google intends to minimize effects of water use in the blog linked here:

[WATER STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS](#)

BRODHEAD CHAPTER STRATEGIC PLAN

The Brodhead Chapter's Board has been working on updating our strategic plan for 2026 through 2031. The strategic plan will guide our Chapter's activities for the next 5 years. In broad strokes, the plan addresses priorities in Conservation, Engagement, Communications, and Funding. A draft of the newest iteration of the Strategic Plan is well worth a read, and can be accessed on the Chapter website at:

[STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

OTHER NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The Board invites interested members to attend a meeting, held on the first Thursday of each month, except July. There is no meeting in July. It is an opportunity to learn about all the projects and issues the Board is addressing or following, and we always are interested in our members' thoughts and priorities. Meetings are at the Brodhead Creek Heritage Center, and start at 7 PM. Come and join us! Let us know by emailing the chapter so we can ensure there are enough chairs for all attendees.

brodheadchapter@gmail.com

Some of the other items on the Board's agenda are: planning public meetings for the Chapter; planning and scheduling work days for stream improvement devices, invasive plant management, and native vegetation planting; discussing and approving Chapter spending priorities; increasing our visibility on social media and internet platforms; reports from our Officers; and reports on development plans and a variety of issues related to cold water resource conservation vital to the mission of Trout Unlimited and our Chapter. The Board is working behind the scenes to support the mission. Come out and see what we do!

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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 any time, 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**

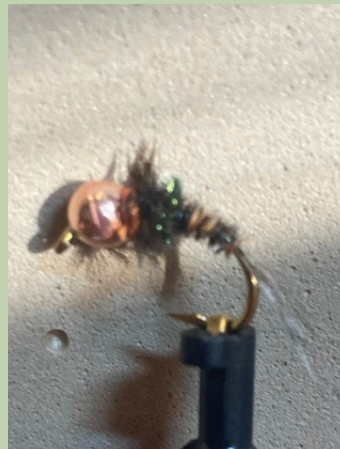
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FISHING, FLIES AND TYING FEATURE

Our region has had very little rain over the past couple months, so local creeks have mostly had below average flow. However, for the most part, the overnight temperatures have been fairly cool, and local waters have experienced few days of warm, trout unfriendly temperatures. As this is written on June 5th, the Brodhead Creek gage in Analomink is reporting 58.6 degrees F. Not bad for early June! For reference, when water temperatures reach 67 to 68 degrees, it is best to not pursue trout. If brook trout are the quarry, that temperature lowers to about 65 degrees. Warm water contains less dissolved oxygen than cool water, and healthy trout require fairly high oxygen content.

FEATURED FLIES FROM BRODHEAD FLY TYERS

The theme from the monthly fly tyers meeting in May was searching nymphs. Although most fly fishers prefer to fish dry flies to trout feeding on the surface, the sad fact is that trout mostly feed under the surface. When nothing obvious is happening, most turn to a favorite searching nymph or confidence fly. Our assembled tyers put together a nice variety of nymphs and wet flies to try.



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Isonychia — The Slate Drake

Stephan van de Loecht

Also known as the Mahogany Dun or Leadwing Coachman, *Isonychia* bridges the gap as the spring mayflies wind down and before the dog days of summer set in. It is a big, meaty mayfly (size 10–12) that trout rarely refuse, and on our Pocono and Delaware freestones it is one of the most dependable hatches of June. It also comes in two broods — early summer and fall— so these patterns serve for months.

Identification

Nymphs: Large (15–20 mm), dark mahogany to chocolate brown — streamlined, with a pale cream stripe down the back. These nymphs are strong swimmers.

Duns: Slate-gray upright wings over a dark reddish-brown to mahogany body, size 10–12. The pale forelegs are a key identifier. The second brood in the fall is generally smaller (size 14–16) than the early-summer emergence.

Spinners: A dark mahogany spinner with clear, glassy wings; spinner falls come in the evening.

Lifecycle & Behavior

What sets *Isonychia* apart is how it emerges. Rather than hatching in open water like most mayflies, the mature nymphs migrate to shore and crawl out onto exposed rocks, logs, and bridge piers to split their shucks — you will often find their empty cases stranded above the waterline. That said, some insects do emerge out in the current, and fish still take duns and emergers, sometimes very aggressively.

Emergence runs from late May through July, peaking in June, with afternoon-into-evening activity and an evening spinner fall. A second brood follows in September and October.

Local Waters

Isonychia favor tumbling freestone water with good oxygen and current. In our region the **Brodhead Creek, Upper Delaware** (and West Branch), **Lackawanna River, Lehigh River, Big Bushkill, Pohopoco Creek**, and **Tobyhanna Creek** all produce reliable Slate Drake fishing in the riffles and pocket water.

Two Patterns to Tie

- **Hackled Slate Drake Dry** — #10–12 standard dry-fly hook, dark brown 8/0 thread, a generous shank-length tail of dark dun hackle fibers, a slim tapered body of reddish-brown dubbing (a blend of muskrat, brown hare's ear, and claret), and a gray or white poly-yarn or Zelon wing post for visibility, finished with a full dark dun hackle wound behind and in front of the wing. The stiff hackle keeps it riding high through broken water — fish it as the lead fly in a dry-dropper rig through riffles and runs.



Isonychia bicolor dun. Photo @ John Morgan (CC BY-NC), via iNaturalist



- **Foam-Back Isonychia Emerger** — #12–16 dry-fly hook, dark brown 8/0 thread, a sparse trailing shuck of brown Zelon or Antron, a reddish-brown dubbed abdomen (the same muskrat / hare's ear / claret blend), a black 2 mm closed-cell foam strip pulled over a dubbed thorax, and brown partridge legs swept back under the foam. The foam back pins the fly in the film at the angle of a half-emerged dun — fish it as the trailer behind the more visible dry in a tandem dry-fly rig.



Subsurface — One Confidence Nymph

There are plenty of *Isonychia*-specific nymph patterns out there, many featuring the distinct pale back-stripe noted above. Rather than carrying a box of them, though, I put my confidence in a more generic tie: a **CDC Flashback Pheasant Tail** in #12 or #14. A pheasant-tail abdomen ribbed with copper wire and a strip of pearl tinsel over the top, a wider band of pearl tinsel for the wing case, a peacock thorax, a brown CDC collar, and a copper tungsten bead imitate the *Isonychia* nymph as well as anything else drifting in the current. I like to finish it with a hot spot of fluorescent orange thread behind the bead. Dead-drift it through the riffles and runs beneath the hackled dry described above.



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](#)**

June 13, White Haven Trout Festival, St. Patrick's Church, White Haven. 11 AM to 4 PM. Free admission.

June 15, Brodhead Fly Tiers, BCHC, 6 PM. Flies for terrestrials. [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](#)

July 11, Stream Improvement Work Day, Yankee Run. 9 AM to noon. [Register](#)

[LINK TO CALENDAR](#)

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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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