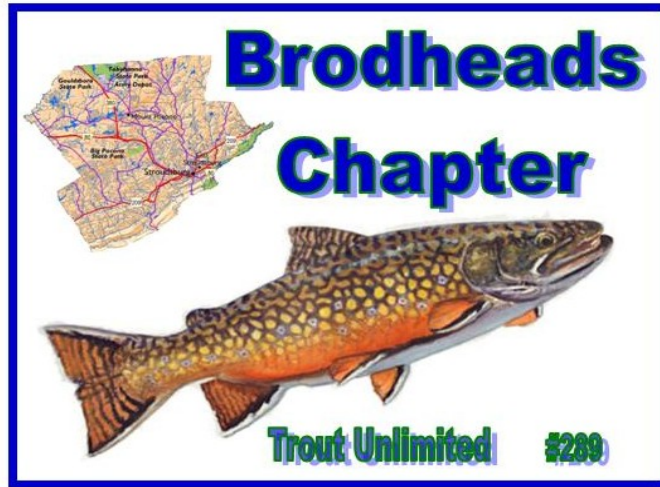
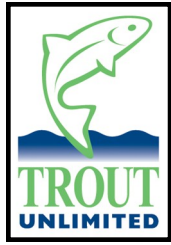


November – December, 2010 Issue



**No General Meeting
in November or December!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Everyone!



Streamside *asides*



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November, 2010

The Home Pool

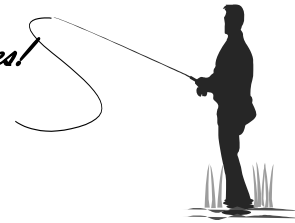
Tom Battista, President, Brodheads Chapter of Trout Unlimited



On behalf of the Board Members and Directors of the Brodheads Chapter of Trout Unlimited, I'd like to extend to you and your loved ones our most sincere best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season.

Tight lines!

Tom



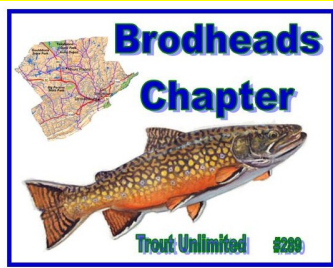
More on the web @: BrodheadsTU.org



FISHING BUDDIES WANT YOU!

The 2010 cadre of available Brodheads TU anglers who have volunteered their services for **Gerry Bortz' Fishing Buddies Program** are now ready to receive calls for the upcoming spring 2010 fishing season. Kindly plan ahead; don't call the night before you want to go fishing and expect the availability of one of our volunteers. Please save this page and know that caring members of YOUR chapter are here to help any fledgling fly-fishers with "getting their feet wet" in one of our lovely local streams. The following BTU chapter members have generously offered their time and expertise to assist fellow chapter members in learning the local waters: **Eric Baird** (570-355-0165; evenings & weekends; Tobyhanna, Hickory Run & Devil's Hole); **Tom Battista** (610-681-6307; Sunday mornings; any stream); **Gerry Bortz** (570-895-1099; weekdays; Brodhead & McMichaels Creeks); **Scott Cesari** (570-897-5830; Evenings & weekends; any streams); **Will Daskal** (610-381-6188; call for availability); **Jeff Heberley** (570-421-3184; any time; anywhere); **Glenn Hessler** (570-629-5492; weekends; Brodhead & McMichaels Creeks); **Tom Magera** (570-977-4381; weekdays in the morning & weekends any time; any stream); **Eric McLendon** (610-863-9097; anytime; anywhere); **Ron Mishkin** (570-460-5031; evenings & weekends; Brodhead & McMichaels Creeks and others); **Frank Russo** (570-839-3436; any time; anywhere); and **John Schriever** (570-722-9797; anytime; anywhere).

Our Chapter deeply mourns the loss of Marty Koss. Marty headed the Knights of Columbus Kids' Fishing Tournament and was a mainstay of this event. The Brodheads Chapter has lost a great friend and ally in bringing fishing to our area's young children.



CHAPTER CALENDAR 2010

November, 2010

Board Meeting – Nov.. 3,
7:30 pm

**Fly Tying Round-Robin –
Nov.. 10,
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

Note: The Fly Tying Round-Robin, all General Meetings, and The Fly Tying Classes, will be held in the Education Room of the Monroe County Conservation District Office on Running Valley Road in Bartonsville, PA.

**ENJOY THE
UPCOMING
HOLIDAY
SEASON WITH
YOUR FRIENDS
AND FAMILY!**

Class A Trout Streams

by Don Baylor

The PA Fish & Boat Commission classifies trout streams according to trout biomass, which is expressed in pounds per acre or kilograms per hectare. This classification system is independent of the stream classification system used by PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). PA DEP's system, including Exceptional Value, High Quality Cold Water, etc., is not based on trout biomass but on water quality measured primarily by overall aquatic life, especially macroinvertebrates. However, having a Class A wild trout population can be helpful in petitioning for an upgrade in DEP's classification system.

The PAF&BC's system classifies trout streams as Class A, B, C, etc., with Class A being the best streams exhibiting the highest trout biomass. Minimum standards for Class A trout biomass vary according to trout species:

Wild Brook Trout fisheries – Total brook trout biomass of at least 26.7 lbs/acre.

Wild Brown Trout Fisheries – Total brown trout biomass of at least 35.6 lbs/acre

Mixed Wild Brook & Brown – Combined brook & brown biomass of at least 35.6 lbs/acre.

In addition to having the minimum biomass, Class A trout populations have to exhibit balance, having a certain biomass of smaller fish indicative of successful reproduction.

Total trout populations are measured by sampling a given length of stream, usually with electrofishing gear. Trout are collected, weighed, measured, and released unharmed. This is a sampling method; not all the trout are collected in one collecting pass (run). In order to estimate the total population, more than one run must be made. Fish collected on the first run can be held in live pens and a second and third run can be made with the trout retained separately for each run. This is referred to as the "depletion method." Theoretically, fewer trout are collected with each subsequent run so that graphing or mathematical regression can be used to estimate how many trout would be collected before there were none left – the total population estimate. The length and average width of the surveyed stream segment are measured so the trout biomass can be expressed in weight per surface area.

Another way to obtain the total population estimate is called "marked recapture." With this technique, trout collected on the first run are marked, usually by fin clipping, and returned to the water. After the trout have had time to redistribute themselves, another run is made, and the number of marked (recaptured) fish can be compared to the number of new, unmarked fish to apply mathematical regression and estimate the total population.

Since trout populations can vary year to year with water conditions, one seasonal sampling does not automatically result in a change in classification. Fish Commission surveys in 2002 found Class A populations in 6 of 8 stations sampled on Pocono Creek. More samplings with similar results may be required for sections of Pocono Creek to be reclassified Class A.

Stocking of hatchery trout in streams with good wild populations has been shown to significantly reduce the number of wild trout. This happens because wild trout have a social order or dominance hierarchy which is disrupted by hatchery trout. This disruption displaces and stresses the wild fish. For this reason, PA Fish & Boat Commission policy precludes stocking in Class A Wild Trout Waters. Of course, stocking also may impact wild trout by causing increase angling pressure.

In the Brodhead Watershed, PAF&BC currently lists all or portions of the following as Class A Trout Streams: Poplar Run, Cranberry Run, Devil's Hole Creek, Mill Creek, Middle Branch Brodhead Creek, Cranberry Run, Pensyl Creek, and Wolf Swamp Run. Listed Class A streams in other Monroe County drainages are Aquashicola Creek, Singer Run, Pohopoco Creek, Middle Creek, and Dotters Creek.

However, these are not the only streams in Monroe County with Class A populations. There are many streams the Fish Commission has not surveyed. Aquatic Resource Consulting (ARC), surveying streams for private clients and through grants obtained through the Brodhead Watershed Association, has found quite a few additional Class A streams. For some time, I have felt that the Fish Commission should add these streams to their Class A list. Although the Class A Wild Trout designation does not affect the DEP permitting process, it is indicative of high water quality and provides baseline information against which future impacts can be measured.

Recently, the Fish Commission has expressed interested in documenting any Class A trout populations not currently on their list. I am preparing to submit to the Commission ARC's documentation of Class A wild trout populations on the following streams or stream sections: Indian Run, upper Swiftwater Creek, Tank Creek, Yankee Run, upper Paradise Creek, upper Cherry Creek, and Taylor Creek. Additionally, Buck Hill Creek, Griscom Run, Reeders Run, Michael Creek, Scot Run, Spruce Cabin Run, lower Stony Run, and Leavitt Branch Brodhead are stream segments for which we do not have data but which may have possibilities for Class A Wild Trout designation.

In our annual water quality work for Pike County, ARC has documented other Class A stream segments not on the PAF&BC list. We will submit these data to the commission as well. Incidentally, from a fishing standpoint, a wild trout stream does not necessarily have to have a Class A designation to provide good fishing, I have had some excellent fly fishing on Class B wild trout streams.

Don Baylor





A.A. Outfitters is having a Fall Sales Event and we're featuring the new G. Loomis NRX Fly Rods on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010. During our regular business hours, in store only, on Oct 30 we'll be featuring some great deals on closeouts, demos, and more. We've got Simms, Sage, Winston, Lamson, Redington, Cloudveil and Fishpond closeouts. We'll also have some specials on hooks and fly tying materials, sunglasses, books, fly boxes.

Many new 2011 products are now in stock at A.A. Outfitters. This will be a great time to check out new gear for the upcoming season.

Also featured will be our G. Loomis Rep with the new G. Loomis NRX Fly Rods. These phenomenal rods will be available to cast and of course buy at A.A. Outfitters. Contact us at A.A. Outfitters by phone 800-443-8119. Or stop in the shop in Blakeslee, Pa.

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