

Bucktail Watershed Association

Volume 2019, Issue 1

January 2019

Bucktail Watershed Association

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Important Dates:

Meeting dates

1st Tuesday of January,
March, May, July, September,
and November

Cameron County Conserva-
tion District Office. 3rd and
Chestnut St.

6:30 pm

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BWA Board of Directors

**Steve VanEerden,
Kirk Baine
Gary Russell
Josh Morgan
Denny Neal**

What's New in Plant Management with the BWA

Compared to 2017, not surprisingly, there have been some changes this year within the association. The herbicide spraying of various invasive plants continued successfully, with some extra help. Membership trended slightly upward, largely due to a concerted effort by a couple members, and actively participating membership stayed flat. Other activities remained stagnant, were reduced, or eliminated.

The leadership of the association is cognizant that the BWA's invasive plants control program lacks glamour and interest by much of the membership, and perhaps at least partially explains the general lack of active participation, but the results are significant and noticeable to anyone willing to look around, especially private landowners that have benefitted by the elimination of invasives on their properties. Organizations in some neighboring counties are taking notice and are initiating invasive plant management strategies of their own.

Given that, the program continued in 2018 and, in spite of the lack of a Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area (SIPMA) coordinator administering the spray program and a wet summer handicapping the spray contractors, a significant amount of herbicide treatment was accomplished. As usual, the control of Japanese knotweed received the most attention regarding hours and grant money expended but treating mile-a-minute vine was a close second, consuming a good deal of contractors' time and funding. Also, this year the BWA partnered with DCNR on a Japanese stiltgrass spray project on the Elk State

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The BWA Needs YOU as a Member in 2019!

The BWA board of directors hopes that you had a very Merry Christmas and wishes you a Happy and Prosperous 2019.

In 2019, the BWA plans to continue its dedication to conserve and protect our aquatic resources but your support is key!

Consider making a membership in the Bucktail Watershed Association and participation in our activities your New Year's resolution. A membership form is provided.

Watershed Association Membership

In 2018, membership was up somewhat to 83 current paid-up members as of this writing. Credit must be given to two members, Marty Flaherty and Bob Saline, for recruiting 19 new members and renewing 9 existing members at a May Hollow Sportsman Club event this past spring. It should also be noted that the club demonstrated its generosity by giving the BWA a sizable monetary donation. The association thanks them kindly.

Those of you that renew your membership for 2019 and those that already have done so will notice that the membership card has changed. It is hoped that everyone will find these new cards satisfactory. The association saved quite a bit of money by not having the previous style printed.

The board of directors is still lacking two members and has had some meetings where business could not be officially conducted because of the lack of a quorum. If a couple of conservation-minded people can't be found to step forward and contribute an hour or two of their time every other month or so, the situation will not likely improve. The board has decided to hold meetings every other month in lieu of the current monthly schedule. The meetings will be held in the new Cameron County Conservation District office on 3rd and Chestnut at 6:30 PM.



Stream Cleanup and Kayak Race

The annual spring litter pickup from Emporium to Driftwood along SR120 happened on 25 March this past year. This is a group effort with three other organizations which is conducted the weekend before the annual canoe and kayak race to dress up the highway and streambank for the race. There were a couple sections of highway that were skipped; a few more volunteers would have made the difference. While low water conditions, at the time, prevented a water-based effort along the streambank, many bags of trash were still collected from along the road. It's hard to fathom what prompts some people to toss their trash into everyone else's backyard. As always, everyone is welcome to help out this coming spring; equipment is provided and there are drinks and grilled hotdogs! The cleanup event will be held on March 31 this year. More details will be posted in the newspaper and on the local radio station this Spring.

Concerning the canoe and kayak race, 2019 will find it under new management. The previous organizer is stepping down. The race will now be organized by the Chamber of Commerce and some water sports enthusiasts. The race will be held on April 6th, 2019.

Changes in Invasive Plant Management for the Watershed

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Forest. Additionally, a second treatment of common buckthorn in Elk County, adjacent to the Cameron County line, was conducted with dedicated funding via a grant from the Stackpole-Hall Foundation. The association is grateful to them for facilitating the continued control of this aggressive invasive shrub. The Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee, born as a management entity of the penalty money received as a result of the 2006 Norfolk Southern train derailment and chemical spill, has been a primary funding source for much of the BWA's invasive plant treatment program. DEP's Growing Greener grants have also funded many spray projects. We are also grateful, especially this past year, to the Cameron County Conservation District (CCCD), and particularly to Assistant District Manager Kate Morgan, who is instrumental in administering BWA's herbicide program since the departure of our last Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area (SIPMA) coordinator over a year ago.

A big change coming in 2019 and related to the invasive plants control program and the CCCD, is the BWA's intent to begin an expanded working relation-

Membership Meetings

Make it your new year's resolution to become an active member in the Bucktail Watershed Association. We need volunteers to help us accomplish our goals in 2019. Meetings are held in the Conservation District office on the 1st Tuesday of every other month at 6:30.

ship with the CCCD. The district will be hiring a new staff member soon whose partial responsibilities will be to administer the spray program on behalf of the BWA. With no SIPMA coordinator, this partnership will ease the burden on the association leadership of keeping the program and its various contractors on track. This will also permit the association to pursue other activities that may be more in line with what some members would like to see and may encourage suggestions and more participation by the general membership.

Sinnemahone Paddle to be held

Saturday April 6th

The Annual Cameron County Canoe and Kayak Classic has changed format. The Canoe and Kayak Race will now be called Paddle Sinnemahone and will be held Saturday April 6th 2019. In addition, the Pedal Sinnemahone bike race will be held September 28th, and the Sinnemahone Ultra Trail Run will be held October 19th. The three events combined will make up the Sinnemahone Triple Crown and participants can choose to take part in just one event or can go for all three.

For more information or to register, please visit:

<https://visitpago.com/events/sinnemahone-paddle/>

What is the Watershed Association Missing?

Things that did not happen this past year included the lack of BWA participation in some local annual events such as Weekend in the Wilds, held in Emporium in July, and the October Fall Fest at Sizerville State Park. These events had a regular BWA presence in years past as did a couple other events, albeit on a less regular basis. These provided an opportunity to do public outreach and education. At these events, the BWA could share with the general public its mission, explain its activities, answer questions, and provide an opportunity for members to renew their memberships and recruit new members. However, with only a few people carrying all the water for the association, burnout is becoming a reality and no one felt inspired to devote even more of their time and efforts on these non-essential activities.

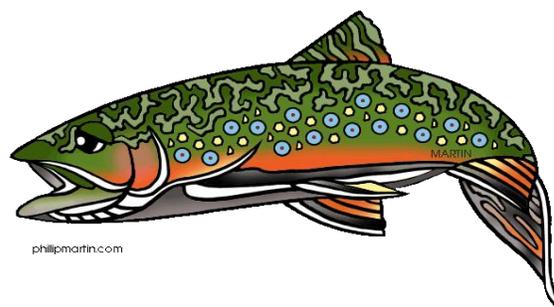
Additionally, the unusually wet summer precluded any chance of partnering with the CCCD in field-based stream improvement projects as the district had a tough time getting just their priority projects completed.

The BWA is probably missing the boat in regards to email and social media. The problem is that of the 5 board members (should have 7), the one young guy is working full-time and has a family, putting his spare time at a premium and the rest of us old guys aren't very tech savvy. If anyone out there has an interest in maintaining an email account (there is one, it's just not maintained) or the association's existing website, or creating a social media presence, don't email us because we probably won't reply. Instead,

call Kirk at 814-486-3401 or Steve at 814-594-3886.

So that's the past year in a nutshell and a peek at 2019. The association is getting some important things done for the watershed but more could be accomplished with some more help. We are getting financial assistance through private and government grants and through dues monies and donations from people like you. That's all much appreciated but volunteers are really needed too. At this point, membership involvement may make the difference as to whether your local watershed association sinks or swims. Please give it some thought.

Trout Season Opener Approaches!!



The trout season will begin in Cameron county on April 6th with a special day for mentored youth under the age of 16. Adults can only dream for another week when the season opens statewide on April 13th at 8:00 AM on all stocked trout waters.

For more information or to purchase your license online, visit www.fishandboat.com

**BUCKTAIL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 123
EMPORIUM, PA 15834**

BUCKTAIL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION WINTER NEWSLETTER ENCLOSED

**BUCKTAIL WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

If you are interested in becoming a member or renewing your membership, please send this form along with cash or a check for the annual dues to:

Bucktail Watershed Association
P.O. Box 123
Emporium, PA 15834



Name

Address

Phone

Sign up for:

- Individual Membership
- Family Membership

Annual Dues

\$5.00

\$7.00

Amount Enclosed _____

Email Address

Signature

Date