

Protecting Clean Water Together: Where Does Your Water Come From?

By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association
BRODHEAD WATERSHED ASSOCIATION - If you said "from my well," you're half right.

Private wells don't tap into an underground river or rock-lined reservoir that is yours and yours alone. Most wells in the Brodhead watershed are drilled down to below the water table, where layers of rock, soil, sand, and sediments are saturated with water. This porous, watery, underground rock is what people mean by "the aquifer" — shared by hundreds or thousands of people.

A pump draws water from this shared aquifer into your home's pipes for drinking, bathing, flushing, and all your domestic water. Water you take out is refilled — or "recharged" — by rainwater and snowmelt.

And that's where things can get dicey.

Anything that goes onto the ground can go into the ground — and eventually make its way to the aquifer that you and your family depend on. When the road crew spreads salt during a winter storm, or a neighbor dumps used motor oil out behind the garage, and even when you spread pesticides or fertilizers in the garden, those chemicals can find their way to your drinking water.

Salt is particularly risky. That's because the soil does a good job of purifying many contaminants — but it can't cleanse itself of salt. Something as simple as cutting back on road salt can help keep your drinking water safe.

Your municipal government plays an important role in the water you drink. Towns must balance environmental concerns with road safety, but they also determine how an area is zoned. Aquifers don't respect property lines — so zoning decisions your elected officials make about how much land can be covered with roofs and asphalt, what kinds of building, businesses, and activities are allowed — and where — all affect your well and your water. Once the trees are bulldozed and the warehouses are going up, it's too late.

Did You Know...?

* During long stretches of sub-freezing weather, standing water may freeze, but creeks don't and neither do wells. Both creeks and wells get their base flow of water from ground water — and whether it's 100 degrees or minus 20 on the surface, ground water stays a close-to-constant 55 degrees; well above freezing.

* If you have "town water," whether from a private community system or a public utility, that water comes from a combination of wells and surface water like the Brodhead Creek.

Brodhead Watershed Association protects water quality and quantity throughout our area. Get involved! Become a member! www.brodheadwatershed.org



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Calendar For The Month Of January

February 5th Chili Cook Off Starts 1pm
 February 11th Valentines Party with Gary Werner Duo starts at 6pm
 February 25th 9 Ball Tournament Doors open at 10am Tournament starts at 11am

Sterling and Dorothy Strauser Art Exhibit and Opening Reception at Stroudsmoor Country Inn

By Amy Leiser, Executive Director

STROUDSBURG - The Monroe County Historical Association will host an opening reception for a fine art exhibit of the works of Sterling and Dorothy Strauser on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at The Gallery at Auradell at Stroudsmoor Country Inn, 231 Stroudsmoor Road, Stroudsburg, PA. The reception, titled "With Love, From the Strausers," will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Show date is Thursday, Feb 9th. The opening reception is \$75 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Each ticket includes one chance to win "The Rose," an original Sterling Strauser oil painting.

Sterling and Dorothy Strauser were an important part of the Pocono art community, not only through Sterling's painted works but also as collectors themselves and promoters of other self-taught artists. Sterling painted locally for more than 65 years. Dorothy was a gifted watercolor artist in her own right and is widely known for her hooked rugs.

THE EXHIBIT

Focusing on the Strausers' love for each other, their community, nature, and a good dessert, "With Love, From the Strausers" will highlight 40 previously unseen works of art by the artist couple. These pieces are part of a larger private collection recently gifted to the Monroe County Historical Association from Kathryn L. Mikels. Also on display will be photographs of the Strausers' daily life and work by local photographers Charles Decker, Jesse Weiss, and David W. Coulter.

THE RAFFLE

"The Rose" will be raffled off to benefit the Monroe County Historical Association, with the drawing held at the end of May. This painting of a single long-stemmed rose was created by Sterling Strauser in 1979. It is framed and measures 7 1/4-in x 26 1/4-in. Everyone attending the opening night reception will receive one ticket for the raffle drawing. Additional raffle tickets are available for \$25 each and will be sold through the end of the exhibit in May.

Reservations with payment are required by Friday, February 3, 2023. For additional information, please visit www.MonroeHistorical.org or contact the Monroe County Historical Association office at (570) 421-7703.

