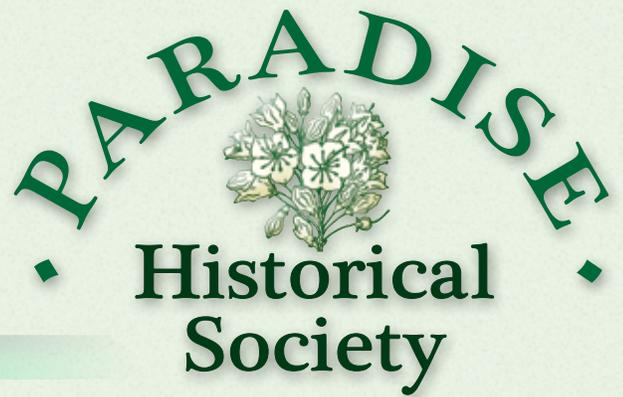


Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE



VOLUME 10, Fall 2016

President's Letter

Our feature story for this issue of "Paradise Past" describes moving the Ace Store. The Ace Store, on Carlton Road, opened in the late 1800s and, even after closing in 1972, has been a beloved landmark in Paradise Township ever since.

Historical society members will receive advance email notice of events as the Ace Store begins its move to a new location. It's not often we see a large building raised from its foundation and carted uphill to a new site! Every step of the process should be fascinating to see.

So if you are not a member of PHS, now would be a good time to join!

Jane

Jane Niering, *President*

At Sylvan Don Miller Talks About Paradise Township's Natural History

Cascade

Learning about and preserving our area's human history is endlessly interesting — after all, the stories are about us, and our neighbors, parents, grandparents, and others who went before.

But how we live here, what industries thrive, what work we do, what kind of food we can grow ourselves or harvest from the forest, even things like how healthy we are, depend largely on our natural history — the story of how this land was shaped over the eons, what kinds of soils there are, what kinds of fish, animals, food plants, rocks, timber, water and other resources we find here. Understanding and preserving our natural history is part of the mission of PHS.

From time to time, Don Miller, accomplished local naturalist and fisherman, shares his perspective on our natural surroundings with PHS. At our August 2016 meeting, we had the great good fortune to join him in a visit to one of the native jewels of Paradise Township — the Sylvan Cascade waterfalls on the Butz Run. We were welcomed by landowners Darcy and Bob Hughes, and their children Ella, 11 and Harry, 9.

Bob had even built an outdoor amphitheater with benches he made from a downed hemlock. Neighbor Herman Brockman, whose memories of the falls go back before the Flood of 1955, was on hand, too.

Don spoke first about the Brodhead Watershed Association, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, and the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited — three local, grass-roots groups whose work protects the quality and quantity of water in our wells and in our streams. These volunteer stewards, along with fishing clubs and other large landowners along the Township's streams, have helped ensure that the beauty of the Sylvan Cascade is matched by the quality of its water: cold, pure, healthy.

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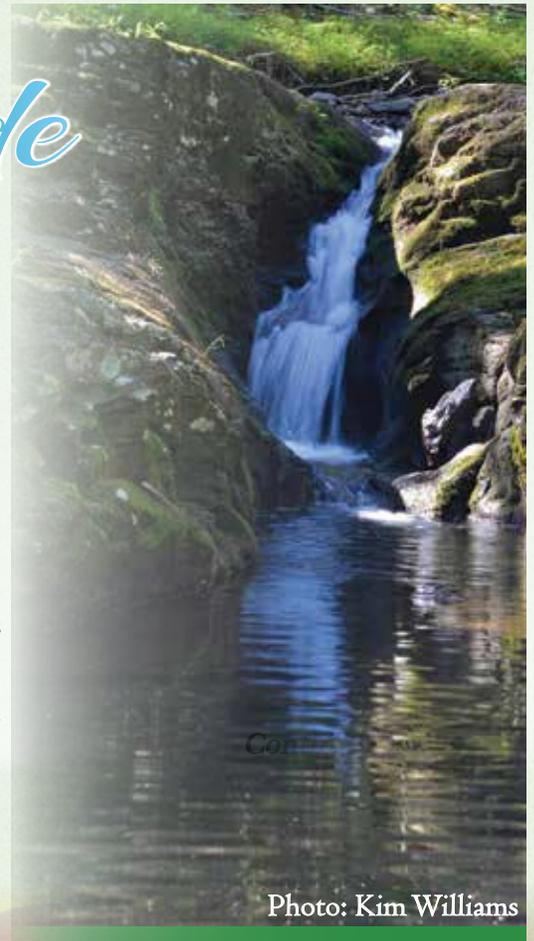


Photo: Kim Williams

Fall

COLLECTING, PRESERVING & DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY



“Breaking” News in East Swiftwater!



Photo: Kim Williams

At the groundbreaking for moving the Ace Store were John Layton, Jeanne Layton, and Susan Layton, who is the fifth generation owner of the property.

On Monday, August 22, 2016, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the historic Ace Store in East Swiftwater.

Three generations of the Ace-Carlton-Layton Family took part. Jeanne Carlton Layton, John C. Layton, and Susan C. Layton each hefted a shovel-full of dirt, marking a symbolic step in moving the Ace Store to a safer location.

Moving the building from the corner where it has stood since the late 1800s is the brainchild of Susan Layton, the fifth generation of her family to own the Ace Store. The location, slightly uphill and about 75 feet back from the corner, will protect the building from the dangers of a busy intersection.

“In the 1800s, being right on the road was a benefit. Now, though, the corner of the porch gets side-swiped by trucks every few years,” said John Layton, who with his mother and brother-in-law recently transferred ownership to Susan. “We’ve had to repair it countless times. Susan’s

plan will make sure the building is safe for years to come.”

plan will make sure the building is safe for years to come.” Already named an historic property by the Pennsylvania History and Museums Commission, work is underway to place the Ace Store on the National Register of Historic Places. Trees have been cut to prepare for the move. Long-time Paradise resident Alan Gross is the contractor overseeing the work and Brick Linder of Canadensis is the civil engineer. The moving company is Wolfe House and Building Movers, whose slogan is “Safely Lifting Homes in PA for 45 Years!”

Susan and her family have become experts in all that goes into moving a building. Susan explained that after the porch is removed and its components safely stored, the building will be lifted from its foundation.

plan will make sure the building is safe for years to come.”

Already named an historic property by the Pennsylvania History and Museums Commission, work is

Enormous metal rollers will be put in place under it and over the course of several hours, the building will be trundled to its new location.

The building will be moved with all its contents in place. House-lifting lore has it that a glass of red wine can safely be left inside on a white tablecloth — the move is so smooth that the cloth will remain spotless!

Amazingly, the foundation is constructed after the building arrives at the new location. After a curing period, the Wolfe team returns to lower the building in place. Then Alan Gross will rebuild the porches using the original posts and corbels.

If all goes according to plan, Susan has kindly offered to open the “new” Ace Store to Paradise Historical Society for our December holiday meeting.

PHS will document and archive every step of the way, as new history is made at Ace’s Corners.



Preliminary work is well underway. The wrap-around porch and “summer bathroom” have been removed, and the foundation hole is nearly finished.

Photo: Carol Hillestad

PHS Archives Provide a Researcher's Resource

Herman Brockman, of Sylvan Cascade Road and Bayonne, New Jersey, has given permission for a collection of his photos of Sylvan Cascade from 1938 - 1942 to be added to the Society's archives. The postcard pictured at the right is an example.

Aaron Imbt, archivist, says that most of our materials are now carefully arranged in new, sturdy filing cabinets and preserved with separate archival sheet protectors. "The collection is surprisingly diverse," Aaron said. "We have a lot of information about Farm on the Hill, for example. This includes photos, postcards and memories shared by one-time owner Barbara Lord."

Access to the archives is for members of Paradise Historical Society. Please call John Layton at 570 839-5207 to arrange a research session.



At Sylvan Cascade Don Miller Talks About Paradise Township's Natural History

Continued from Page 1

The headwaters of the Butz Run spring from what is today called Alpine Lake and another sister lake, upstream along route 715. Once an extensive watery meadow, the lakes were created by damming the wetlands when the property was developed. As it flows out of the lakes, the low incline makes for flat, slow-moving water. Lacking shade from the trees that were cut for roads and houses, the water moving into the Butz Run is very warm — much too warm for cold-loving trout.

The Run moves down through the Ziegler Farm and a historic beaver meadow, meandering toward the steep edge of the escarpment that rises above the Paradise Creek. As the Butz Run drops off this escarpment, it picks up speed and oxygen, captures small streams and seeps, runs through cooling hemlock ravines. Water quality improves.

In the early 1800s, the cold creeks and streams of the Brodhead watershed were shaded by dense old stands of hemlock and native rhododendron. Native brook trout thrived and reproduced, and fishermen

braved the days-long trip from New York, Philadelphia, and beyond to fish here. Vacationers came from the cities for the summer months, to benefit from the pure air and cool nights. It is well documented that a stretch of the Brodhead, just downstream from where the Butz Run joins the Paradise Creek, was the birthplace of flyfishing in America.

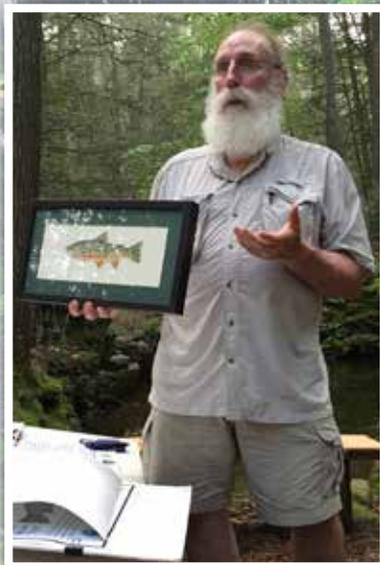
Then in the 1850s came the railroad, providing easy transport for people and materials. Hemlock forests were clearcut to feed the tannery industry. Creeks were dammed to provide shallow lakes for ice harvesting. Visitors could come for a few days, stay at boarding houses and return to the cities.

By the late 19th century, the erosion of silt into waterways which were warmed by lack of shade trees had drastically impaired the pristine streams. The trout no longer prospered — and the fishermen, in search of fish, moved on to the Catskills. Don said that "the Catskills may claim to be the 'cradle' of trout fishing in America, but the birthplace is right here on the Brodhead."

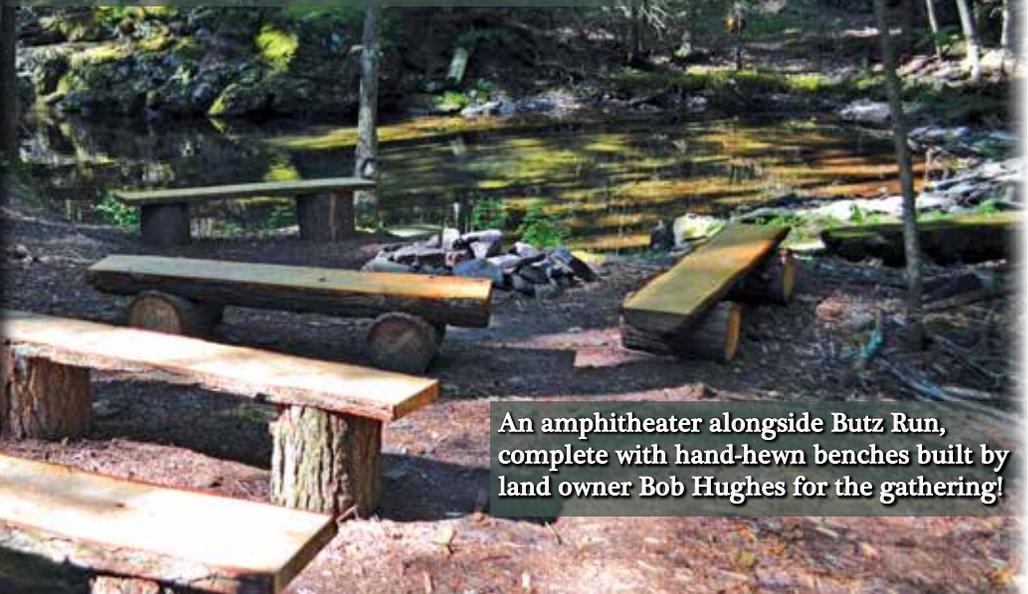
With time, regrowth and some human care, the Butz Run, and most of the creeks and streams in the Poconos, have recovered. Water quality is excellent. Breeding populations of native brook trout are found in headwaters throughout Paradise Township. Brown trout and rainbow trout, imported by the Fish Commission for stocking after the native trout crashed in the late 19th century, compete and thrive.

Don shared a painting by naturalist Don Baylor of a wild tiger trout. The tiger is a hybrid of female wild brook trout and a male wild brown trout. Brook and brown trout are distinct species, but are able to mate and produce the beautiful, though sterile, tiger trout. The presence of tiger trout is an indication of incredibly high water quality. They are rare, but occasionally found today in Paradise creeks.

The natural history of fish and fishing in Paradise Township and the Poconos will be continued in the next issue of Paradise Past.



Well-known local naturalist and former teacher Don Miller speaks to the assembled group, holding an image of the rare wild tiger trout painted by Don Baylor.



An amphitheater alongside Butz Run, complete with hand-hewn benches built by land owner Bob Hughes for the gathering!

Paradise Historical Society
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A Memory Submitted TO THE PHS Website...

Long-time Paradise Township resident, Donald Brown shared a memory via www.paradisehistorical.org.

Subject: Harry Sr. @ Niering Garage Memory "I sat with Sr. on the little bench in front of the garage one day and a car pulled up, with the driver asking where was Paradise Valley. Sr. asked the man to get out of the car, and walked him to the edge of the street, then asked him to look up the road, and then look down the road. Then told him "you have just seen it." All very polite and quite comical."

Thank you, Mr. Brown, for this endearing memory of Harry Niering Sr.!

Do you have a memory to share? Go to www.paradisehistorical.org and click on "Contact Us," or email the newsletter editor at jimhill@ptd.net or call 570 629-2727.

The directors and officers of Paradise Historical Society are:
LeeAnne Dyson, Bruce Estell, Dan Hamblin, Carol Hillestad, Aaron Imbt, John Layton,
Laura Layton, Harold Metzgar, Jane Niering and Kim Williams.

And We Welcome Our New Members: Dean and Marta Costanza

**Become a
Member
Today!**

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS! Please help Paradise Historical Society collect, protect & share the interesting history of our area.

- Student or Senior (65+) - \$8.00 Family - \$25.00 Individual - \$10.00
 Corporate - \$50.00 Couple - \$20.00 Sustaining - \$100.00

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

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Please send the completed form and check (no cash) to:
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