



HIKE EVENT: Explore the secluded Cranberry Creek in Paradise

Clear, cold and home to native brook trout, Cranberry Creek is the hidden heart of the 150-acre Nothstein Preserve in Paradise Township, Pa. On Saturday, Nov. 25, join Brodhead Watershed Association for a free guided hike of about 3 miles – including stream crossings – to explore this conserved land.

New trails created by the township and a new map made by the county planning commission help hikers investigate the preserve's unique features. Discover an old stone quarry, a gorge cut through by the creek, and the bleached remains of oaks killed by gypsy moths standing like tall, ghostly fingers among thousands of promising oak seedlings and saplings.

Swinging around the end of the quarry, the trail soon drops steeply into different terrain – a forest amphitheater littered with boulders and glacial till. Evergreen Christmas ferns abound. Mosses as thick and dense as a bear's pelt soften the steep, rocky, single-track trail.

The trail continues on the far side of the creek. The bridge is out, but the creek is low, and crossing the rocks is easy. (Paradise Township is working on creating simple bridge stream crossings.) Able hikers will relish the challenge and its reward: the natural beauty of Paradise.

HIKE EVENT

Join hike leader Carol Hillestad for a challenging hike of up to 3 miles. The specific route will depend on how much water is in the creek on the day of the hike.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Saturday, November 25, 2017

COST: Free, but registration is required. Directions will be provided upon registration.

INFORMATION: Call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727; email info@brodheadwatershed.org. For information about this and other hikes in the free Get Outdoors Poconos series, go to brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos. The hike series is administered by Brodhead Watershed Association and supported by a grant from the William Penn Foundation.



Brodhead Watershed Association is a nonprofit environmental organization formed in 1989. BWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving water resources and the environment of the Brodhead watershed, and the water quality of the Brodhead, Cherry, Marshalls, McMichael, Paradise and Pocono creeks and their tributaries. BWA assists municipalities, residents, businesses and groups with protecting natural resources through education, workshops, seminars, public programs and stream monitoring. For information: info@brodheadwatershed.org or 570-839-1120.