

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 02, 2016

(Please do not print after Feb. 27, 2016)

Get a little wild in Barrett Township

It's just minutes from Mountainhome, but Zimmer Wildlife Sanctuary feels a little wild on a winter day, with no sound but the sighing wind.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, Darryl and Jackie Speicher will lead a hike to explore the 97-acre "neighborhood preserve" on Spruce Cabin Road in Barrett Township. This event is part of the Get Outdoors Poconos series.

Here once stood the Old Orchard Inn, which burned in 1928. Stone steps remain, cut into the hillside, providing access to Brodhead Creek. Visitors will see exhilarating views upstream and downstream of this bend in the creek. Follow the red-blazed trail into stands of big, old rhododendrons; large patches of Christmas fern; white pines and hemlock; and very few invasive plants. Living boulders the size of small cars are carpeted in lichens and moss.

The Old Orchard Inn is long gone, and its open meadows and long views across the creek have changed to densely wooded land. But it's easy to imagine how the clear-cut land looked back in the day, and be grateful for a winter walk – and a little wilderness – in Mountainhome's backyard.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: A moderately difficult hike on Zimmer Wildlife Sanctuary

WHEN: 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27

WHERE: Spruce Cabin Road in Barrett Township. Meeting place will depend on weather.

COST: Free

REGISTRATION required. Call 570-839-1120 or email info@brodheadwatershed.org (subject line "Zimmer hike").

FOR INFORMATION, photos and a trail map, see brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos. Other trails and hike events are listed there.

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.