

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 29, 2016

(Please do not print after March 26, 2016)

Off the beaten path at Promised Land

Promised Land State Park in Pike County is one of 25 “must-see” state parks in Pennsylvania, but there are plenty of ways to get off the beaten path in this popular place.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26, the “Get Outdoors Poconos” hiking series will lead the way.

A 2.5-mile loop starts at the Snow Shanty Boat Mooring Area, off Pickerel Point near the park office. Hikers here will see a mix of several kinds of oak, maple, healthy hemlocks and spruces, and hundreds of beech sprouts.

The often-rocky trail winds through many different terrains, uphill and down, passing from mixed hardwood forests to high-bush blueberries crowding around. Grouse, rabbits, fox, and other small creatures abound here, rustling in the underbrush.

A short, steep climb leads to an exposed rock ridge and an otherworldly scene — a rockscape of head-high boulders, dropped and tumbled and left behind with the ebbing of the last glacier.

Return to your starting point through a tunnel of black-green hemlocks running steeply downhill, toward swampy, ephemeral wetlands showing beaver activity.

You’ll return to civilization feeling grateful that this wilderness of almost 3,000 acres belongs to us all, open to everyone.

IF YOU GO

What: A moderate, family-friendly hike of about 2.5 miles at Promised Land State Park

When: 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26

Where: Meet at the parking area of Snow Shanty Boat Mooring Area, off Pickerel Point Road, directly across Route 390 from the Promised Land State Park office. Restrooms and maps are available at the office.

Cost: Free, but registration is required.

Register: Call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727; email info@brodheadwatershed.org (subject line “Promised Land hike”).

Information: Go to brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos. The Get Outdoors Poconos 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.