

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

(Please do not print after Dec. 18, 2016)

Photos available for download at: <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AlusXBZdArEwg33nnsghHuz9mdHe>

Credit Nancy J. Hopping

HIKE EVENT: A rare chance ramble on private McMichael Creek preserve

Pohoqualine Fish Association is committed to protecting the cold, pure water of McMichael Creek – which trout need to survive and thrive – on its private land along Route 715 in Chestnuthill and Jackson townships, Monroe County, Pa.

The public rarely gets to see this 12-mile stretch of McMichael Creek, but on Sunday, Dec. 18, a special “Get Outdoors Poconos” hike will lead the way.

The 2.5-mile trail is open, easy for the first half mile (it gets rockier later), and hugs the creek. The water is shallow after months of drought, but moss-covered rocks, duck weed and sphagnum moss abound. Wet areas are bridged by low boardwalks.

Even the waterfalls were made with preservation in mind. Made of logs and concrete, dams create churning falls that pump oxygen into the creek and form deep pools that trout love, shaded and cooled by rhododendrons and hemlocks. Where the bank overhangs the creek, the fish zip and coast and hover – flickering shapes of sunlight and cold water sure to delight hikers.

HIKE EVENT

WHAT: Carol Hillestad will lead a 2.5-mile out-and-back hike along McMichael Creek. Difficulty is easy-to-moderate with some bridges, wet places and short lengths of boardwalk.

WHEN: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016

WHERE: Meet at the parking area off Route 715 in Chestnuthill Township, directly across from Idlewood Drive. From the Wawa at the intersection of routes 209 and 715 in Brodheadsville, go north on Route 715 nine-tenths of a mile. Entrance to parking area is on the right and will be marked with a BWA event sign. If you come to Cottontail Lane, you’ve gone two-tenths of a mile too far. Trailhead GPS: 40.935586, -75.392238

COST: Free, but registration required.

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.