

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association
And Pocono Heritage Land Trust

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, March 01, 2014

(Please do not print after March 8, 2014)

**Brodhead Watershed Association and Pocono Heritage Land Trust
present:**

“Where in the Watershed” Walk# 2

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Spring Ahead at PHLT’s Kurmes Paradise Creek Nature Preserve

**And Explore the Paradise Creek’s Vernal Pool and Forested Headwater
Habitats**

Brodhead Watershed Association and Pocono Heritage Land Trust are sponsoring a series of monthly “Where in the Watershed” walks to little known places throughout the Brodhead Watershed. This month’s walk at PHLT’s Kurmes Preserve in Paradise Township. is on one of many Paradise Creek’s wild headwater streams on Saturday, March 8, from 1 to 4 pm.

While winter is still in charge of the weather that affects our daily lives in early March, there are subtle stirrings in the woods that capture a careful observer’s eye. The calendar, a warm southerly breeze and the lengthening daylight all hint that the winter blues will soon pass as the magic of spring returns anew.

Join BWA and PHLT Board Members and local naturalists, Don Miller and Lori Colgan for a late winter or early spring (depending on the fickle and very unpredictable March weather) exploration of vernal pools along the newly completed Tank Creek Trail to find those exciting signs of spring.

Winter’s amphibian sleepers return earlier than many people realize with Jefferson’s salamanders, spotted salamanders and wood frogs moving from winter quarters buried deep in the forest leaf litter to the sometimes still snow and ice covered “vernal” pools. While timing and temperature must be right to catch the full show of nature’s “March madness”, there are many other things to be enjoyed in the woods and wetlands as we “spring ahead” this time of the year.

So, if it is still too cold for amphibians to be stirring, we will still explore their vernal haunts and then venture down the trail, into the dense rhododendron thickets and along the beautiful Tank Creek deep in the forested headwater of the 400 acre Kurmes Preserve - where the Paradise Creek begins.

This easy hike on mostly level forested terrain (which may still be snow covered) is to investigate several open space protected vernal pools and their forested environs. Appropriate winter outdoor attire and hiking boots are recommended. Participants should meet in the parking area of the Kurmes Preserve just off Devil's Hole Road near the State Gamelands #221 parking lot and DL&W Railroad tracks in Paradise Township (for directions call PHLT).

A \$5.00 per person non-member or a \$3.00 per person BWA/PHLT member hike donation (children under 12 are free) will be collected at the start of each hike to support BWA's and PHLT's many environmental monitoring, land protection and educational activities. Hike pre-registration is requested. Register for the hike by calling Pocono Heritage Land Trust Monday to Friday at 570-424-1514.

Please visit www.brodheadwatershed.org or www.phlt.org and/or Find us / Like us on Facebook for additional walk and event information



Wood Frog



Not a wood frog



Spotted Salamander



Don Miller