

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

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Credit Nancy J. Hopping

HIKE EVENT: Seeing the benefits of Big Woods in the West End

Patiently, persistently, over a period of 17 years, the supervisors of Chestnuthill Township in the West End of Monroe County, Pa., have assembled hundreds of acres of forest for public recreation — the land that makes up The Big Woods Natural Area.

On Sunday, Oct. 22, the Get Outdoors Poconos series will host a hike through the 460-acre Big Woods, part of the West End Greenway.

A blazed trail will lead participants on a 2.25-mile hike to discover wildflowers, puddle-dwelling pollywogs, a pileated woodpecker, red-spotted newts and monarch caterpillars munching on milkweed.

The trail starts out wide and open, and then footing consists of rocks and dirt, but it is hard-packed and mostly level — fairly easy going. Horseback riders also enjoy this jaunt through the Big Woods.

Open, sunlit woodland sports white pine and hemlock, chestnut oaks and beeches, maples and birch. Loose stone rows and precise dry-laid stone walls stand as evidence of a long-ago builder's skill and our area's agricultural roots — all now preserved for perpetuity.

IF YOU GO

Join hike leader Carol Hillestad for this easy hike of 2.25 miles.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Sunday, October 22, 2017

WHERE: Chestnuthill Township, in the West End of Monroe County. For directions, please register.

COST: Free; registration is 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.