

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Download photo: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g0XQ7L7m12jKWOKSZh68kBaUzjnkFyw2/view?usp=sharing>

Caption: *The heart of the bog at Thomas Darling Preserve. (Carol Hillestad photo)*

Oct. 17: Explore a rare land that protects Pocono waters

The trail at Thomas Darling Preserve in Blakeslee, Pa., takes you right into the thick of things, right from the start. Brodhead Watershed Association offers a guided hike on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, to explore this densely wooded alder swamp – part of another world, a relic of the glacier that receded 12,000 years ago.

The ground is squishy with a patchwork of sphagnum moss, ferns and club mosses, among the most ancient kinds of plants. The foliage of long-gone spring wildflowers and partridge berry blankets the wet forest floor.

At the heart of this quiet, old place is a single-track boardwalk in the middle of 650 acres of glacier-created wetland. The boardwalk is just inches above the trembling expanse of watery, mossy, shrubby terrain centered on 2,500 acres of protected land. Wetlands stretch out all around me, a healthy mosaic of every kind of inland wetland found in Pennsylvania, including peat bogs.

Places like this are rare, very rare, in the world. This ecosystem protects air, water, unique plants and animals, us, and all life on the planet we call home. Like an enormous sponge that stretches to the horizon, these complex wetlands have stored, filtered, and released water for millennia, in ways we still don't fully understand.

OCTOBER EVENT

Join Brodhead Watershed Association for a guided hike with naturalist Patti O'Keefe at Thomas Darling Preserve.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021

COST: Free

WHERE: The preserve is near Blakeslee, Pa. Directions will be provided to registrants.

REGISTER: Registration is required and limited. To register, go to brodheadwatershed.org/events/darling.

FOR INFORMATION about this and other events in the free Get Outdoors Poconos series, go to www.brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos. These events spotlight how forested land keeps drinking water safe and abundant. The 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.