

# NEWS RELEASE

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From the Brodhead Watershed Association

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Photo available for download here: <https://1drv.ms/i/s!AlusXBZdArEwhDE7Rch0larh67o2>

Credit Nancy J. Hopping

### **Restoring and exploring 193 acres in Cherry Valley**

What was once manicured greens and mowed fairways are returning to nature, beckoning hikers to explore Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Stroudsburg, Pa.

Brodhead Watershed Association will host a guided hike through the former golf course on Saturday, Aug. 19, highlighting the positive changes in the 193 acres now preserved and open to the public.

The golf cart paths remain, making for good footing and easy – though hilly – walking. Two loops — the Front Nine and the Back Nine — offer varied terrain, lots of views, several miles of hiking options and a gazebo at the highest point.

Cherry Creek flows through the property, but has suffered from being mowed right to the edge. Without the natural filtration and cooling shade of creekside natives such as rhododendrons and hemlocks, fish and other aquatic creatures can't thrive.

But the Earth seems determined to restore its natural balance here.

The air is soft and full of birdsong — yellowthroats, towhees, catbirds and song sparrows. With plenty of cover and food sources, this place is a heaven for birds! Pokeweed, wild grapes and many kinds of berries abound.

The abandoned tees are shaded by Norway spruce, tall oaks, big aspen and shagbark hickory. Zillions of tulip tree seedlings have sprung up. Staghorn sumac, skunk cabbage, ferns and willows inhabit the low wet places, and native cattails and frogs have colonized a former water hazard.

#### **HIKE EVENT**

Join hike leader Carol Hillestad for this moderate hike of about 2 miles. The event is free, but registration is required.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017

**WHERE:** Meet at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge off Cherry Valley Road south of Stroudsburg. Take Route 191 south past the Stroudsmoor resort. At the bottom of the hill, go left on Cherry Valley Road. At Croasdale Road, go right to parking for the refuge.

**CONTACT:** Call 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727; email [info@brodheadwatershed.org](mailto:info@brodheadwatershed.org). For information about this and other hikes in the free Get Outdoors Poconos series, go to [brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos](http://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](mailto:info@brodheadwatershed.org) or 570-839-1120.