

NEWS RELEASE

From the Brodhead Watershed Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Download photo: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o6HGxXHgAZdtOt6Aby0siSR8W790iuro/view?usp=sharing>

Caption: Five acres at Josie Porter Farm are planted in different crops throughout the season. Here, garlic is almost ready to harvest. (Carol Hillestad photo)

July 17: Explore Cherry Valley's 'community treasure'

Sometimes, good ideas keep growing. Brodhead Watershed Association will host an exploration of one of Stroud Township's good ideas – the Josie Porter Farm – on Saturday, July 17.

Ed Cramer, the Stroud Township supervisor who helped make the farm come to fruition, will help lead the hike.

In 2004, Stroud Township had purchased the 48 acres along a stretch of Cherry Creek, with funding from the township and Monroe County's Open Space bond. Ed had studied the benefits of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and how organic farming practices helped keep creek waters clean and pure while building up soil health and providing healthy, natural food for the community.

That vision — and a lot of hard work on the part of farmers Heidi Secord and her husband, Gary Bloss — made the farm the "community treasure" it is today, said Ed.

A farm store welcomes customers, and a playground keeps kids occupied while their parents pick up shares of the organically grown vegetables and other products Heidi sells. There is also a children's garden and, of course, Cherry Creek.

Half of the land is open to the public for hiking, and that's what BWA participants will explore on July 17.

JOIN US JULY 17

Carol Hillestad will lead a walk at Josie Porter Farm, accompanied by Stroud Township Supervisor Ed Cramer, who will talk about open space partnerships between municipalities and farms and other enterprises.

WHEN: 10 a.m. Saturday, July 17, 2021

WHERE: Josie Porter Farm is in Cherry Valley, Stroud Township.

REGISTER: Registration is required and limited. Call 570-629-2727 or email jimhill@ptd.net.

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.

