



June 16: Challenging hike at Van Buskirk Preserve

Join Brodhead Watershed Association on Saturday, June 16, for a challenging hike in Van Buskirk Preserve in Paradise Township – a preserve made even more interesting by the recent storms.

The 80-acre preserve has always been full of fascination for hikers, with an overgrown orchard, the stone foundation of a long-gone barn, an old red rock quarry, the gushing Cranberry Creek, and multitudes of spring wildflowers.

But after March's nor'easters and May 15's violent windstorm, hardy hikers will find so much more to see, navigate and appreciate. Tree limbs are embedded like swords, deep in the earth. White pines are uprooted, their giant root masses on end and exposed, as tall as houses and studded with slabs of stone.

Against the backdrop of raw and broken trees, spring doesn't despair. Low-bush blueberries are covered with nodding white flowers. Violets in every shade, false lily of the valley, star flower, wild geranium, and Jack-in-the-pulpit abound. Thousands of oak seedlings and saplings are filling in for the skeletal old oaks the gypsy moths devoured a few years ago.

Nature, as always, finds a way to rebound.

HIKE EVENT

WHAT: Carol Hillestad will lead a 2-mile loop hike at Van Buskirk Preserve in Paradise Township. This is a strenuous hike on and off trail and requires climbing over and crawling under fallen trees. Expect rocky, wet, steep conditions. Walking stick recommended.

NOTE: Due to limited parking and the nature of the hike, participation is limited to 15 hikers. Poison ivy is prevalent both on and off trail. Long pants and caution recommended.

WHEN: 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 16

COST: Free, but registration is required. Directions will be provided upon registration.



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.