

Get a little lost at Snow Hill

By Brodhead Watershed Association

POCONOS - A new tract of Delaware State Forest offers a way to get lost in natural history for a little while. Brodhead Watershed Association's Get Outdoors Poconos series offers a glimpse into the Snow Hill area for those who might want to try it for themselves.

The trail begins off Snow Hill Road in Price Township, Pa., and includes a stretch of Stony Run and a small waterfall. Unmarked, meandering trails (and a lack of a map, since this tract is so new) make finding landmarks a happy adventure.

One trail ends in a clearing — the vegetated top of a high grey cliff of 400-million-year-old sandstone where a big granddaddy pine grows right out of the rock. The sheer walls below are thick with rock tripe lichen. Looking over the edge, hikers can see tumbled boulders, cracked free from the solid mass by time and ice.

Another trail plunges downward and ends up in someone's backyard.

The Snow Hill Road property is more than 300 forested acres that protect water quality and quantity in the Brodhead watershed. It is part of Delaware State Forest, which covers 83,519 acres of forested public land with lakes, creeks, waterfalls, and more than 100 miles of trails open to the public.

This parcel, which had been slated for development, was acquired with grant help from The Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Forestry, which is preparing a trail map. For information, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateForests/.

IF YOU GO

- Directions: From Route 447 in Price Township, take Snow Hill Road for one-half mile. The parking area is on your right. GPS: 41.149239, -75.229259

- Trails vary from wide, grassy and flat to steep and rocky. Trails are not blazed. Respect private property owners whose land abuts the public areas.

- Hunting is allowed in Delaware State Forest, and something is usually in season. Always wear orange.

- Go to brodheadwatershed.org/gopoconos for information on this as well as other hikes in the Get Outdoors Poconos series. The series is administered by Brodhead Watershed Association and sup

For information: info@brodheadwatershed.org or 570-839-1120.



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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



ISSUE 18 - OCTOBER 2020
TURNING POINTS
News and Updates from Turning Point of Lehigh Valley



DEDICATION TO EMPOWER, EDUCATE, AND ENGAGE

Dear Friend of Turning Point,

We are excited to share with you Turning Point of Lehigh Valley's pledge campaign for Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October. During the entire month of October, we will dedicate our focus to empower, educate, and engage the community to learn more about domestic and intimate partner abuse, highlight our life-saving services, and ways to help. You will find upcoming events, including our virtual vigil on our Facebook page. With your participation in the pledge campaign, together we can reach a wider audience and have a greater impact in making a difference.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is also a crucial time for us to raise the necessary funds for our programs and services that benefit residents of the Lehigh Valley. There has been an unprecedented demand in an unparalleled environment for the need for our services. In a time where we have struggled to keep our operations normal during the pandemic, we have seen a humongous increase in our services from last year to this year. Since last year, we have seen an increase in all of our services and the number of people that we have helped with our services has jumped from 2,600 to 3,500.

As a community, you were a huge part in helping us get the word out to those who needed help. With the surge in people that we are helping, we also have a surge in expenses. Your help is needed now more than ever so that we may continue to answer the call for those in dire situations. We realize that not everyone may be able to give back this year. Our ask is that you consider participating in whatever way that you can so we may continue to provide an array of comprehensive trauma informed services to survivors of domestic and intimate partner abuse as well as educate the community about this social issue.

Take the pledge to end domestic and intimate partner abuse in the Lehigh Valley!
Go to <http://bit.ly/TPLVDVAM> to view all of our events in October.

With Gratitude,
Lori Sywensky, Executive Director



Monroe County Historical Association Receives \$4,000 Grant

By Amy Leiser, Executive Director

STROUDSBURG - The Monroe County Historical Association is pleased to announce that the organization has received a \$4,000 Cultural and Historical Grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The one-year grant program distributed funds designated by the State Legislature to support Pennsylvania's history and to strengthen the museum community. The Cultural and Historical Support Grant Program, run by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, awarded nearly \$2 million in grants to qualified museums and official county historical societies.

Founded in 1921, the Monroe County Historical Association is a cultural and learning center that assists the diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting Monroe County's past with the present. The historic 1795 Stroud Mansion, located at the corner of Main and 9th Streets, serves as the nonprofit organization's headquarters and houses a local history museum and genealogical research library.

Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Don't Put the Cart Before the Horse

We finished a job this week that was made much more difficult by someone's attempt to make their home energy efficient but starting with the wrong thing. When someone has an energy assessment performed on their home it is the baseline for all improvements. What many energy auditors don't understand is that the repairs can't be prioritized in order of payback just to satisfy the homeowner. When an attic is buried under a foot and a half of cellulose insulation it becomes no-man's land. It will definitely improve the thermal efficiency of the home but anything that needed repair or replacement beneath that layer of insulation will now be much more difficult to reach and to repair. Airsealing is an important part of a total energy upgrade and if it is not done before the insulation you can forget about doing it later. Ducts that need replacement or recessed lights that need to be upgraded just became twice as expensive to do. Many times when the insulation is disturbed by contractors, it is not replaced properly and will not perform the way it should after that. To do those jobs correctly from the start would be much more beneficial. Building raised walkways and a platform for storage or HVAC equipment is one of the first steps to be done. Sealing all air leaks from the house to the attic is the very first thing needed. That entails moving the existing insulation and applying a foam sealant to every crack and gap plus filling all holes from plumbing and electrical work. Ventilation panels then need to be placed in the eaves to prepare for added insulation. Only then can insulation be added without putting the cart before the horse.

There is a giant vacuum available to remove the insulation and bag it so it can be reinstalled but that is a time consuming process and an expensive piece of equipment. If the insulation was contaminated or there was a good reason to remove it all, the cost would justify it but that is very rare. When the ultimate goal is value, sequence can make or break a job. Companies who just want to fill your attic with insulation without a detailed plan on how it should be done are not doing you a favor. Only spray foam can stop air leakage from the living space to the attic. Fiberglass or cellulose can't do that. And spray foam is too expensive to use in most cases. Sealing air leaks with gap foam and adding cellulose is the best value.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com



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