

“Adventures to the Ancients”
Pocono Area Old Growth Forest & Open Space Hikes
August 2011 – January 2012

Sponsored by Pocono Heritage Land Trust and DCNR’s Jacobsburg E. E. Center

Join in these “Adventures to the Ancients” open space hikes led by Bill Sweeney, an old growth forest enthusiast, botanist and long-time DCNR naturalist with Jacobsburg E. E. Center and Don Miller, an open space advocate, long-time teacher, botanist and naturalist with Pocono Heritage Land Trust. Hike participants will have an opportunity to explore both public and private old growth forest areas throughout the Pocono Region and experience the natural beauty of these often forgotten or sometimes secretive locations where the sawyers blades of foresters/lumbermen in decades past have left some small remnants of old tall timber trees.

*** Registration required: Contact Bill Sweeney at Jacobsburg E.E. Center
(610) 746-2808 or by e-mail wisweeney@state.pa.us**

Program Hike hours 12:00 / 1:00 – 5:00 pm (includes some travel time)

ALL Adventures to the Ancients hikes are free of charge with donations asked to support
Pocono Heritage Land Trust’s Preserve Management & Land Conservation Fund.

*** Please dress appropriately for weather conditions, wear sturdy comfortable hiking boots and bring plenty of water and energy snacks. All hikes are held rain, snow or shine.**

Sunday 08/28/11 - Pocono Environmental Education Center from 1 - 5 p.m.

Approximately twelve miles of public hiking trails traverse beautiful and varied habitats at the Pocono Environmental Education Center. Hikers will discover mature hardwood forests along the Fossil Outcrop trail and Old Growth Hemlock forests along the Scenic Gorge Trail. We will hike both of these scenic trails for a combined total hike of 3.25 miles. We will encounter a great diversity of tree species along the way and will stop at an unusual fossil outcrop that depicts a time millions of years ago when Pennsylvania was covered in a vast inland sea.

Lehigh Valley residents can meet at 12:00 pm at the Jacobsburg EE Center main parking lot located off of Belfast road. Pocono area participants meet at 1:00 in the PA Visitors Welcome Center parking lot just off Exit #310 in Delaware Water Gap. Registration is required. Contact Bill Sweeney at Jacobsburg EE Center 610 746-2808 or by e-mail Wisweeney@pa.gov

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Sunday 09/25/11 – TCBog’s “Edge of the Wetlands” Trail from 1 - 5 p.m.

A unique northern habitat of dense Black Spruce and American Tamarack can be found just outside the town of Tannersville, PA. The flora and fauna of the Nature Conservancy’s Tannersville Cranberry Bog are one of the best examples of a northern bog habitat in Northeast PA. Walk with us along a newly proposed “Edge of the Wetlands” trail and then back to the boardwalk where we will examine a great variety of plants more common in Canada than Pennsylvania and learn how and why this unusual assemblage of plants have survived here since the last glacial retreat over 10,000 years ago. This hike will end with an optional 30 minute “wet foot” excursion to the “Eye of the Bog”.

Lehigh Valley residents can meet at 12:00 pm at the Jacobsburg EE Center main parking lot located off of Belfast road. Pocono area participants meet at 1:00 in the Tannersville Inn parking lot off Rt. 611 in Tannersville. Registration is required. Contact Bill Sweeney at Jacobsburg EE Center 610 746-2808 or by e-mail Wisweeney@pa.gov

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Sunday 10/30/11 - Buckhill Falls Property “Falls Hike” from 1 - 5 p.m.

Steep inaccessible slopes and the aesthetic beauty that virgin forests provide are two of the main reasons why Pennsylvanians can still enjoy these inspiring places. The virgin Hemlock forests of Buckhill Falls were protected over a hundred years ago because of the profound appreciation that local residents had and continue to have for this National Natural Landmark. Buckhill Falls is a private residential conservation community but this program will provide non-resident participants with the opportunity to enjoy a scenic two mile hike through this scenic private property.

Lehigh Valley residents can meet at 12:00 pm at the Jacobsburg EE Center main parking lot located off of Belfast road. Pocono area participants meet at the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library parking lot just off Rt. 390 North in the village of Cresco. Registration is required. Contact Bill Sweeney at Jacobsburg EE Center 610 746-2808 or by e-mail Wisweeney@pa.gov

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Sunday 11/20/11 - Pennel Run Natural Area/Delaware State Forest from 1 - 5 p.m.

Nature lovers can enjoy one of the finest natural areas in the state when they visit this Pike county treasure. Enormous 200 year old White Pine grow here along with a great diversity of other tree species, but this site was forever protected as a “ State Forest Natural Area” by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources because of the exceptional amphibian habitat located along Pennel Run, a tributary to Bushkill Creek. This is a great headwater stream and woodland hike through a “protected gem of a natural area” in the Delaware State Forest.

Lehigh Valley residents can meet at 12:00 pm at the Jacobsburg EE Center main parking lot located off of Belfast road. Pocono area participants meet at 1:00 in the PA Visitors Welcome Center parking lot just off Exit #310 in Delaware Water Gap. Registration is required. Contact Bill Sweeney at Jacobsburg EE Center 610 746-2808 or by e-mail Wisweeney@pa.gov

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Sunday 12/18/11 – DWGNRA Hogback Ridge at the Walpack Bend from 1 - 5 p.m.

The tough sedimentary rock of the Hogback Ridge forces the Delaware River to take a dramatic turn to the east and around the Hogback ridge as it makes its journey south. Join us for a four mile hike that starts and ends at the DWGNRA Bushkill Visitor Center. We will hike along an old colonial road that winds along the spine of this steep sloped ridge. Participants can compare a maturing forest on the upside of this old road while viewing old growth forests growing along the steep slope that plummets towards the Delaware River. The views alone make this hike worth the effort!

Lehigh Valley residents can meet at 12:00 pm at the Jacobsburg EE Center main parking lot located off of Belfast road. Pocono area participants meet at the DWGNRA Bushkill Visitor Center located on the east side of route 209 in Bushkill PA. Registration is required. Contact Bill Sweeney at Jacobsburg EE Center (610) 746-2808 or by e-mail Wisweeney@pa.gov

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Sunday 01/29/12 - The Walter & Jaclyn Mock Preserve from 1 – 5 p.m.

A special place lies hidden in Eldred Township near the small town of Kunkletown Pa. It is the home of Jaclyn Mock and habitat for many other wonderful wild residents that reside here. The Mock preserve provides a variety of habitats ranging from old fields to a young emerging forest to a steep ravine lined by 200 year old Hemlock trees. Participants will witness the flowing waters of the Princess Run (a headwaters to Buckwa Creek in the Lehigh River watershed) as it tumbles over a series of steep shale outcrops creating a magical series of waterfalls. Jaclyn Mock is as beautiful as the land she and her late husband Walter have cared for and protected for over 60 years. So come out and meet this very special lady and the beautiful land she has preserved for posterity through Monroe County’s Open Space program.

Lehigh Valley residents can meet at 12:00 pm at the Jacobsburg EE Center main parking lot located off of Belfast road. Pocono area participants meet at 1:00 at the Saylorsburg Flea Market parking lot just off the Saylorsburg exit of Rt. 33 South. Registration is required. Contact Bill Sweeney at Jacobsburg EE Center (610) 746-2808 or by e-mail Wisweeney@pa.gov

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