

The Southeast Breeze

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club | October 2021

Get AMC-SEM activities delivered right to your email inbox!

Sign up for the AMC Activity Digest. Sign you're your Outdoors account and [follow these instructions](#).

Or call 1-800-372-1758

Find past issues of *The Southeast Breeze* on our [website](#).

Like us on [Facebook](#).

Follow us on [Instagram](#).

Have a story for *The Southeast Breeze*?

Please send your Word doc and photographs to breeze.editor@amcsem.org.

Please send photos as separate attachments, including the name of each photographer. Include the words "Breeze Article" in the subject line.

Shop the Breeze Market for equipment bargains!

Members looking to sell, trade, or free-cycle their used equipment can post for free.

Send listings to breeze.editor@amcsem.org

Business ads start at just \$15/month. Send inquiries to breeze.editor@amcsem.org



AMC-SEM hikers enjoyed a lovely summer day August 1st on the Brockton Conservation Properties. See more photos on page 6. *Photo by Rob MacDonald*

Register now for FallFest BBQ, activities, online

By Appalachian Mountain Club Staff

AMC presents a weeklong celebration of the outdoors and the volunteers and members who make our work possible. From October 16th to 23rd Volunteers and Staff will host three regional BBQ events, dozens of in-person activities, and online workshops and presentations.

Registration is limited to 300 for the Oct. 16 gathering at Noble View Outdoor Center in Massachusetts. From 11 am to 5 pm, enjoy outdoor activities, a barbecue, and time to reconnect in an outdoor setting that allows for social distancing! This is a free event.

Gatherings will also be held Oct. 23 at the Highland Center in New Hampshire and the Mohican Outdoor Center in New Jersey at \$25/adult & youth and \$12/child ages 12 and under.

[Click here](#) and search for keyword "FallFest" to see all of the 100 events, including activities designated for Beginners, 20s & 30s, or Families.



View from the Chair: Save the Dates!

Watch for our new activities!

New Members Hiking Series started October 3

Are you new to our chapter? Join us for this hiking series which will run monthly and will begin at different locations in Southeastern Massachusetts. New AMC members or those looking to become members will be given priority during registration.

20s & 30s Hike October 16

Are you in your 20s or 30s and want to hike with your peers? SEM is collaborating with AMC Boston's 20s and 30s committee for SEM's first [20's & 30's hike at F Gilbert Hills State Forest](#). The group plans to go out for lunch after, if there is interest. To find other 20s and 30s activities, go to activities.outdoors.org and filter by Audience of "20s and 30s."

Winter Workshop November 4

Are you a three-season hiker who wants to participate in the delights of winter hiking? Attend SEM's free online [Winter Hiking Workshop](#). After the workshop, the winter hiking series will be posted. Those who participated in the Workshop will be given priority to register for the winter hike series.

AMC-SEM Annual Meeting November 6

Please join us for our local chapter 2021 Annual Meeting on November 6 from 5-7 PM. This will again be a Zoom Webinar. [Click here](#) to register.

I'm always interested in your input either by email or in person. I generally offer several local hikes a month. Join me on a hike or email me at chair@amcsem.org.

Diane Simms
AMC-SEM Chapter Chair

2021 Executive Board

Chapter ChairDiane Simms
Vice ChairOPEN
 SecretaryNatalie Halloran
 TreasurerDavid Yampanis
 Past Chapter ChairLen Ulbricht
 Bicycling Chair..... Peter Linhares
Bicycling Vice ChairOPEN
 Cape Hiking Chair.....Jane Harding
 Cape Hiking Vice ChairRobin McIntyre

Communications ChairNichole Nelson
 Communications Vice Chair... Alanna Halloran
 Conservation ChairJoanne Newton
 Conservation Vice ChairBill Cannon
 Education ChairSue Svelnis
 Education Vice ChairDoug Griffiths
 Hiking ChairPaul Brookes
 Hiking Vice Chair.....OPEN
 Membership Chair.....Samantha Fisher
 Membership Vice ChairSandy Santilli

Paddling ChairEd Foster
 Paddling Vice ChairJoe Keogh
 Regional Director.....Jenna Whitney
 Skiing ChairJeannine Audet
 Skiing Vice ChairDia Prantis
 Trails ChairSkip Maysles
 Trails Vice ChairSteve Scala
 20s & 30s Chair.....Susan Schobel
20s & 30s Vice Chair.....OPEN.

Ad Hoc Committee Chairs & Other Chapter Contacts

Social Media Administrator**OPEN**
 Webmistress..... Cheryl Lathrop
 Nominating Committee Chair..... Alan Greenstein

The Breeze Editor.....Mo Walsh
 Blast Editor.....Marie Hopkins

Please contact chair@amcsem.org
 or nominating.com@amcsem.org
 if you are interested in any position.



New Bicycling Committee Chair Peter Linhares, left, completed online leader training and co-leads to become a Bicycling Leader. *Selfie Photo by Peter Linhares*

New Bicycling Chair & trip leader

By Diane Simms, AMC-SEM Chapter Chair

The SEM Board elected Peter Linhares as Bicycling Chair in the September Board meeting. Peter will be listed on the 2022 Slate, which will be voted on at the November 6 Annual Meeting.

Peter became SEM's Bicycling Vice Chair in September 2019. When past Bicycling Chair Bernie Meggison stepped down in March of 2021 after years of service to SEM, Peter took on responsibility for working with leaders and promoting bicycling. Peter met with leaders, heard their concerns about leading rides with the COVID-19 restrictions, and encouraged them when restrictions eased. Peter wrote an article for the Breeze and the amcsem.org website notifying SEM members of one of our great member benefits—free use of the SEM RideWithGPS app. Peter has been an active board member, participating in discussions and votes.

AMC-SEM Annual Meeting Webinar Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021 from 5 to 7 pm

Registration by Activity DataBase Posting is now open. Please visit the amcsem.org website for links to the Slate of Officers.

Review the proposed 2021 By-Laws with previous text and [revision marks](#) or with proposed text only and [no revision marks](#).

Peter had planned to take leader training the spring of 2020 to become a fully qualified leader, but that was canceled. He took advantage of the AMC online leader training in the spring of 2021. He followed that with a co-lead with experienced bicycling leader Jeannine Audet—a fun ride through Freetown and Dartmouth followed by a wine tasting and live music at a winery. Peter assisted Jeannine by helping to keep riders together and providing information about our chapter.

For his second co-lead, with Jodi Jensen (this month's Volunteer of the Month), Peter planned the route, practiced the ride, identified good rest areas, posted the ride, screened the registrants, and led the ride—a beautiful 24-mile route through the backroads of Lakeville, Rochester, Freetown, and Acushnet.

Thank you, Peter, for being an AMC-SEM Board Member and bicycling leader.

If you are interested in becoming a bicycling leader, contact Peter at bicyclingchair@amcsem.org.



New Class 1 Hike Leader Bill Belben, left, receives congratulations from Leader Pam Johnson at the end of a hike he led in the Blue Hills. Pam presented him with his AMC Volunteer Patch, new Leader bag complete with snacks, a First Aid Kit, water, and other goodies. *Photo by Jayne Olivere*



WFA students gather for the hands-on practice of skills described in the classroom sessions. *Photos by Sue Svelnis*

Wilderness First Aid course at Wompatuck State Park

By Susan Svelnis, Education Chair

SEM's Education Committee would like to thank all who participated in our Wilderness First Aid class September 18-19! While the class is mandatory for Class 2 and higher SEM activity leaders, it covers a wide range of emergency health topics that could benefit everyone.

Broken bones, allergic reactions, gashes and puncture wounds, and hypothermia are just some of the topics covered in these two days of training. While these issues aren't common on our hikes, it is important to be prepared for them.

This class involves a lot of hands-on learning, which clearly was not an option during the COVID-19 quarantine. We are very grateful to Alex Chu, an instructor with SOLO and a Wilderness First Responder, who committed last spring to teaching the class. Since then we had to deal with changing COVID-19 protocols and strict new safety protocols, but it all worked out great. We were fortunate to have a class of twenty, and SOLO was able to offer optional Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification as well.

For the first time, we held this training at the Visitor Center at Wompatuck State Park, which turned out to be perfect. The facility was nice, and the park offers camping for those who preferred to stay overnight.

Look for SEM to offer another class next spring. You may also find course offerings through some of the other AMC chapters on the [ActDB](#) under Education.

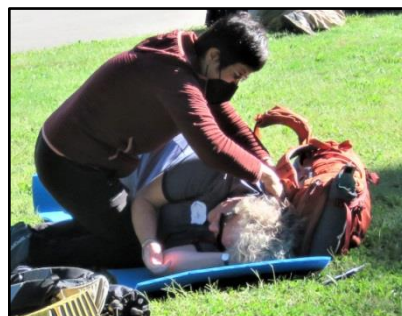


The sold-out WFA course was led by Alex Chu from SOLO.



Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO) is the oldest continuously operating school of wilderness medicine in the world.

WFA students had to assess and determine treatment for "victims."



Scenarios ranged from the effects of weather to minor injuries or illness to medical emergencies.



Volunteer of the Month: Jodi Jensen

By Peter Linhares, [bicycling Chair](#)

Each month the SEM chapter recognizes one of our amazing volunteers. We are so fortunate to have people give their time, energy, and resources to make our chapter one of the best! This month, the SEM Board recognizes

Jodi, after a long hiatus of bike route postings for all bike leaders on OutDoors.org due to COVID regulations, was the first to post a ride in May for 2021 in the Wrentham area of MA. I was excited to meet her via phone and to have the first posting for 2021. Jodi offered for me to be a co-lead on this trip as I needed one in order to lead my own. Since May, Jodi has posted 2 other rides, was a co-lead for my first bike ride posting in August. Generally, speaking we have a good group of leaders, they are all very good but for noted reasons Jodi stood out. Thank you Jodi!

Congratulations, Jodi, and thank you from all of us at AMC-SEM! Jodi will receive a Volunteer of the Month Certificate and a \$50 gift card

At AMC-SEM, 'Vice' is a Virtue



New trails, new views of wildlife! *Photo by Robin McIntyre*

Cape Hikers explore expanded Great Neck Audubon Sanctuary

On September 30, eight hikers enjoyed the newly expanded trails at the Great Neck Audubon Sanctuary in Wareham. Audubon has purchased a property adjacent to their existing land and expanded the trails to include a lovely view of Widow's Cove. White egrets gave us a show against the blue fall sky!

Small Steps to Conservation

By Bill Cannon, [Conservation Vice Chair](#)

This month, the weather is so up and down. We have hot and cold days. Rather than kicking on the AC or heat, use your windows to regulate the temperature in your home by following these suggestions:

Check the weather for the next few days.

If you see a warm spell coming, use a fan in a window at night, *turned around* to blow the warm air out and pull the cool air in through the rest of your windows.

During the day, adjust your blinds or draw your shades to reflect the sun's warm rays.

If you see a cool spell coming, close up your windows during the day and raise your shades to let the sun's warm rays heat the house. Close the shades at night to help hold the heat in.



Brockton Conservation Hike

Continued from page 1



Hikers enjoyed the beautiful woodland trails and boardwalks on a relaxing trip of 4 to 5 miles. Discoveries along the way included a Little Free Library bearing a quote from Frederick Douglass: "Once you learn to read, you will be forever Free." Photo at left by Rob MacDonald. Other photos by Diane Simms

MAP & COMPASS

WEEKEND WORKSHOP NOV 13 & 14

For more info & to register, click on the link below:

<https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/135206>

No prior experience necessary

"So much fun using topo map to find flags hidden in the Blue Hills."

"Two days gave us enough time to practice the skills, I finally got it!"

"It was great that we were broken into small groups, and that each had its own assistant."

"I now feel comfortable hiking alone, I can take a different trail if needed to avoid a shady character and still find my way back."





SEM winter hikers atop Mt. Pierce in the White Mountains.
Photo by Dexter Robinson

Discover the Joys of Winter Hiking at our (virtual) Winter Workshop

By Paul Miller, SEM Winter Hiking Leader

Learn how much fun winter hiking can be at this year's [free winter workshop](#), delivered via Zoom on Thursday, November 4, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Experienced Southeastern Mass. Chapter winter hike leaders will cover most everything you need to know to get started with winter hiking as a prelude to our popular Winter Hiking Series. This includes appropriate clothing and associated layering strategies, winter gear (microspikes, snowshoes, crampons, hiking poles, etc.), and footwear, plus the unique nutrition, hydration, and conditioning requirements for winter hiking. Together, the workshop and Winter Hiking Series introduce three-season hikers to the joys of winter hiking/snowshoeing and provide a solid foundation for four-season adventures in the mountains.

To register for the workshop, [click here](#).

The Winter Hiking Series, monthly Saturday hikes running throughout the winter, start with one or more local hikes and proceed to progressively more challenging winter hikes in MA and NH. The series culminates (pandemic constraints permitting) with an overnight trip to the beautifully located AMC Zealand Falls Hut.

Participation in an AMC Winter Hiking Workshop will be a prerequisite for participation in the Southeastern Mass. Chapter's Winter Hiking Series. Note that in addition to the Winter Hiking Series, the SEM Hiking and Skiing Committees will offer a variety of other opportunities for our members to play in the mountains this winter. These include fun snowshoe trips, XC ski trips, and more challenging winter hiking adventures.

Welcome Paul Audet as a new Class 1 Hike Leader

By Walt Granda, Hike Leader

One of our newest hike leaders, Paul Audet, is a native of the Fall River/Westport area. He grew up familiar with the 16,000 acres that comprise the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve and continues to spend a great deal of time exploring and researching its history, natural resources, and trails. Paul's varied interests in the outdoors not only include hiking, but also snowshoeing, skiing, and bicycling.

He has previously volunteered to co-lead three hikes in the Fall River/Westport area. Two of the hikes were at Copicut Woods, a 516-acre Trustees property, adjacent to the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve. The third hike was 4-5 miles in the Bioreserve in Fall River.

On Sept 26th, Paul completed his final qualifying hike in the King Philip's/Copicut Hill sections of the Fall River Bioreserve. It took a lot of planning and research for Paul to find trails that would be appropriate for new hikers. Due to heavy rain, the trails on two of the routes were flooded, making some sections impassable. Paul redesigned the route and provided a very interesting hike that included a fire tower, dry trails, stone walls, some very narrow trails, and fire roads.

Paul took full charge of the hike, including trip planning, screening, and group management. Before the hike began, he gave us some fascinating historical facts about the Wampanoag tribe who lived in the area. He also discussed how this area was formed into the Commonwealth's' first Bioreserve. During the hike, Paul highlighted some physical and flora features of the area. For the new hikers, he pointed out the trail markers and demonstrated how to use them to find their location on the map.



Everyone in the group had a great time, and the new hikers expressed interest in returning. Thanks, Paul, for a great day!

**Photo by
Walt Granda**



Trekking the Mount Everest Region of Nepal in April 2019.
Photo by Robin Melavalin

Travel the world with the AMC

By Robin Melavalin & Leslie Carson, AT Leaders

What's on your bucket list? Alaska? Yellowstone? Canadian Rockies? How about Patagonia, Morocco, Fiji, or New Zealand?

Each year the AMC Adventure Travel offers about 50 trips to exciting destinations in the USA and around the world. The trips are designed and led by AMC volunteer leaders who are trained in organizing logistics, managing groups in an international context, budgeting group travel, and providing wilderness first aid. AT offers hiking, trekking, cycling, kayaking/canoeing, skiing, walking tours and cultural excursions. One of the benefits of traveling with AT is the small group size, 12-18 people including the leader(s). Trips are run on a nonprofit basis, keeping the trip cost low. All money not spent on the trip is returned to the participants.

Although several trips were canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, leaders have been busy renewing canceled trips and adding new ones to the slate of offerings. For wintertime activities, there are cross-country ski trips such as *The Italian Alps XC Skiing* trip (#2221) or *A Winter Alaskan Adventure* (#2213), both offered in February 2022. If you enjoy bicycling, you may want to explore *Bike and Sail: Tulip Time in Holland* (#2205) in April 2022 or *Vienna-Budapest: Biking Along the Blue Danube* (#2227) in August 2022. For the hikers and backpackers, there are numerous domestic and international trips that have openings for 2022 and 2023.

Two hiking trips offered by SEM leaders Robin Melavalin and Leslie Carson are *Exploring Slovenia's Julian Alps* (#2261) August 2022 and *Highlights of New Zealand's North and South Islands* (#2258) in December 2022.

Adventure Travel leaders in the SEM chapter include Erika Bloom, Eva Borsody Das, Leslie Carson, and Robin Melavalin. Another SEM leader is currently signed up to go through Adventure Travel Leadership Training this fall. If you are a SEM leader who is passionate about creating unique adventures for active travelers, perhaps you would be interested in becoming an AT leader.

Trip planning typically starts 18-24 months before departure, and each trip goes through a rigorous approval process. Most leaders work on logistics with local partners and bilingual guides who are thrilled to share their culture, environmental knowledge, and homeland with us.

Some trips fill quickly, so if you see a trip you like—go for it! You can sign up to be notified when AT trips are first posted on the Adventure Travel [website](#). So next time you are dreaming about where you'd rather be, take a look at AMC Adventure Travel and let your bucket list dreams come true!



Perito Moreno glacier in Argentina from our trip to Patagonia in Feb 2020. *Photo by Robin Melavalin*



Keeping the forest ecosystem healthy with prescribed burns

By Paul Miller, Four-Season Hike Leader

Part 1: *How state forest and wildlife managers in Massachusetts are reconciling the needs of fire-adapted natural environments with encroaching human development.*

The U.S. Forest Service's long-running "Smokey Bear" public relations campaign telegraphed the misleading message that all forest fires are bad. But today's forest managers have learned what many indigenous peoples have understood for millennia: Suppressing forest fires isn't necessarily the best approach and often a very bad one. It allows the fuels load to build up, increasing the risk of dangerous wildfires. A regimen of fire suppression can also threaten critical ecosystems.

Prescribed burns are particularly relevant for naturally fire-adapted ecosystems. These include the mixed conifer and ponderosa pine forests in the western portion of the U.S. and the extensive pine barrens in southern New Jersey and southeastern Massachusetts. With this new understanding, forest and wildlife managers in Massachusetts and elsewhere have added prescribed burns to their arsenal of management tools.

According to David Celino, Chief Fire Warden at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), "When we're able to introduce fire back into a fire-dependent ecosystem, it's a win-win situation. The prescribed burns can restore the natural habitat while reducing the fire risk to the public by managing the fuels and reducing the fuel buildup."

Earlier this year (after we were both fully vaccinated against COVID-19), Chief Celino was kind enough to spend several hours with me at Myles Standish State Forest (MSSF) in Plymouth to discuss the state's expanding prescribed burn program. In addition to overseeing all forest fire-related activities within the Commonwealth, Chief Celino also serves as Chair of the Northeast Regional Strategy Committee (NE RSC) for the National Cohesive Wildlands Fire Management Strategy. The National Strategy provides a model and guidelines for related activities across the country.

Carefully planned, executed, and monitored prescribed burns are being employed to help maintain the health and biodiversity and reduce the risk of uncontrolled forest fires in many of our national, state, and local forests.



David Celino, Chief Fire Warden at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Photo by Paul Miller

While most of these activities take place in the western portion of the U.S. where large and deadly infernos continue to ravage our national parks and private property, prescribed burns are increasingly being performed right here in densely populated eastern Massachusetts. This includes Myles Standish State Forest (MSSF) in Plymouth and Carver.

At more than 12,400 acres, MSSF represents the largest expanse of public open space in southeastern Massachusetts, the second largest state forest in Massachusetts, and one of the largest pine barrens on the east coast of the U.S. This state forest, along with adjacent property, represents a significant chunk of the larger Massachusetts Coastal Pine Barrens region.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) has identified Myles Standish State Forest as a critically important conservation area due largely to its high biodiversity. This includes white-tailed deer, wild turkey, red squirrel, gray fox, and more than 130 different species of birds. Several of those bird species, such as Prairie Warblers and Eastern Whip-poor-wills, are not commonly found in Massachusetts. Other wildlife, such as the Northern Redbellied Cooter turtles, are included in the Federal government's endangered species list. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has documented 42 rare and endangered species within Myles Standish. These include moths, butterflies, damsel-flies, dragonflies, beetles, birds, reptiles, and assorted plants.

Continued on page 10



Prescribed burns Continued from page 9

In addition to the biodiversity, this very popular state forest also provides humans with multiple opportunities to enjoy healthy outdoor recreation year-round. Hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, bird watching, camping, fishing, and hunting are all popular seasonal activities. So much so that, in the warmer months, it can be challenging for families to wrangle one of the many established campsites in the forest.

During hunting season, the forest abounds with blaze-clad hunters looking to bag their allowable quota of the abundant and varied wildlife in the forest. In the colder months (and largely outside of the hunting season), it's not uncommon to come across numerous hikers, snowshoers, cross-country skiers, equestrians, and even fat-tire mountain bikers on the many and varied trails.

Hiking in the pine barrens environment

These days, my personal outdoor activities tend to revolve around hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, and on-pavement bike riding. As I learned soon after moving to my new home in Plymouth several years back, hiking in Myles Standish is very different than hiking in other familiar hiking venues up in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, or even right here in Eastern Massachusetts, such as the Blue Hills in Canton and the F. Gilbert Hills State Forest in Foxboro.

In addition to Myles Standish's relatively flat trails, the ground is very sandy and the forest is composed mostly of pitch pine and scrub oak—similar to the landscape on nearby Cape Cod. The sandy nature of the soil sucks up moisture quickly, so even following heavy rains, muddy trails are rarely a problem. The landscape itself is also pleasantly diverse. The trails wind variously through a dense forest of pitch pines, with thick undergrowth of scrub oak and a variety of berry shrubs; across open fields; and around attractive bogs, ponds, and vernal pools.

But, over the years, a heavy buildup of combustible organic material has developed within much of the forested area. So much so that it isn't difficult to imagine that, helped along by typically dry and windy seasonal conditions, a small wildfire in MSSF—possibly started by a lightning strike, but more likely by a carelessly tossed cigarette butt or smoldering campfire—could quickly threaten both the State Forest itself and nearby neighborhoods.

A history of wildfires

In fact, Myles Standish State Forest has a history of wildfires. Several decades ago, several other scout leaders and I had brought our young Boy Scout troop to Camp Cachelot for an overnight trip. Cachelot is just one of several scout camps located within or immediately adjacent to the State Forest proper. At that time, the camp was just starting to recover from a massive wildfire back in 1964 that had devastated 5,500 acres and numerous structures within the state forest. According to a May 24, 1964, article in the *Boston Globe*, more than 1,000 people in all had to be evacuated. This included 650 Boy Scouts and their leaders who were participating in a major regional scouting event at Cachelot.



In 1964, a massive wildfire at Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth and Carver, Mass. devastated 5,500 acres. (Source: massmoments.org)

Several years prior to that, in 1957, an even larger wildfire had rampaged through 15,000 acres of the forest encompassment. At its peak, that fire consumed 18 acres *a minute*. At the turn of the century, another wildfire, subsequently referred to as the “Great Fire of 1900,” had burned about 32,000 acres of land in Plymouth, from MSSF all the way to Cape Cod Bay. More recently, the local Plymouth and Carver fire departments have made multiple visits to the State Forest to contain smaller blazes started by both natural and human causes.

While these localized fire suppression efforts have certainly helped protect the neighboring communities, they've been detrimental to the health of the forest, which—as a fire-dependent pine barrens ecosystem—*requires* periodic fire to thrive and maintain its biodiversity. Also, as with the vast expanses of forest land in the western U.S., this history of fire avoidance and containment contributed to the current buildup of combustible organic material and dense undergrowth on much of the forest floor.

Continued on page 11



Wild lowbush blueberry, *vaccinium angustifolium*, a fire-tolerant plant found in Myles Standish State Forest, often spreads following a fire. Public domain photo from WikiCommons

Prescribed Burns

Continued from page 10

As witnessed in recent years, this fuels buildup—combined with changing weather patterns—has increased the occurrence of much larger, more challenging to contain, and often-fatal wildfires in our national parks and elsewhere.

Due to suburban sprawl, southeastern Massachusetts and the Town of Plymouth in particular, have experienced tremendous residential and commercial development in recent decades. The obvious dilemma then is how to reconcile the need for fire-adapted environments such as the pine barrens with the encroaching human development, for which fire is generally anathema.

Pine barrens ecosystems need periodic fire to thrive

Today's forest managers understand the importance of smaller, controllable fires, or "prescribed burns," to prevent the unnatural buildup of organic debris that can lead to massive, largely uncontrollable wildfires. Furthermore, in fire-adapted ecosystems such as the pine barrens, the trees and shrubs actually *require* periodic fire to stay healthy, reproduce, provide an appropriate habitat for wildlife, and maintain critical biodiversity.

According to MassWildlife, fire has historically played a fundamental role in shaping a patchwork of open habitats and forested communities across the Massachusetts landscape. In pine barrens, many shrubs such as low-

bush blueberry sprout quickly after fire from their fire-resistant roots and underground stems and branches. The pitch pine and oak trees that dominate this ecosystem have thick protective bark, and the wildflowers typically found in pine barrens have heat-resistant seeds that break their dormancy after fire. This healthy vegetation provides an environment in which wildlife can thrive.

Thus, in addition to reducing the serious risk of dangerous uncontrolled wildfires by reducing the buildup of highly flammable organic matter on the forest floor, smaller and more controllable fires help restore and perpetuate natural communities and ecosystems. This is something that the Wampanoags and other Native American tribes understood and propagated before European encroachment. Today, prescribed burns are often accompanied by mechanical clearing using heavy equipment to reduce fuels buildup and maintain ecosystems.

Part 2 of this article will be published in the November 2021 issue of the Southeast Breeze. Paul Miller is recently retired and now works as a freelance writer covering subjects of personal interest. These include hiking, sailing, the environment, and the outdoors. Paul is an experienced four-season hiking leader for the AMC-SEM Chapter. He previously served as Hiking Chair and Communications Chair.

FALLFEST 2021

 OCTOBER 16-23



AMC is excited to get outdoors together this Fall and we hope you join us. FallFest includes three in person regional events, local FallFest activities, and a week of online education programs! Check out our list of FallFest activities at <https://activities.outdoors.org/search/>



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

Create your personal Activities Digest

AMC has an email notification system for AMC members interested in keeping up to date with new and upcoming activities posted on AMC's Activities Database (ActDB) on outdoors.org. The Activities Digest system can send email notifications on a daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis depending on how a user configures the settings.

The Activity Digest functions in a very similar way to the search function on the ActDB listing page, but it pulls the data you want to see straight from ActDB to your inbox. To get started, Login to your account at the bottom of the home page at outdoors.org, and then click My Outdoors.

BICYCLING

Sat., Oct. 16. Biking & Brews in Westport, Buzzard's Bay Brewing, MA. Join us for a beautiful fall ride through Westport & Dartmouth, MA. We will start & end at the Buzzard's Bay Brewery. The ride will be approximately 30 miles, w/ some hills. Pace 12 mph. On our return to the brewery, cyclists may wish to stay to enjoy beer, the offerings of a food truck & live music. A helmet is required to ride. L Jeannine Audet (508-493-8221 Weeknights after 7:00 pm, weekends anytime., milmod@aol.com) L Bernie Meggison (617-930-4029, thosmeggisons@gmail.com)

Wed., Oct. 20. Hunters Full Moon ride, Sandwich, MA. October's full moon is named Hunters Moon. It signifies the time to prepare for hunting to have food for the winter. We will ride from the Sandwich Marina on the Cape Cod Canal area towards Mashnee Island for sunset, Then to Cape Cod Bay for the 6:11 PM full moon rise. Average speed 14-15 mph. Mostly flat. Distance approximately 22 miles. Helmets are required, lights are strongly suggested. Contact leader for specific ride times and start location. L Bernie Meggison (617-930-4029 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM, thosmeggisons@gmail.com, Past SEM chair, long time bike ride leader.)

Sat., Oct. 23. Leaf Peepers Fall Cycling, MA. Fall cycling at its best. Leisurely paced (11-12 mph trip average) approximately 30 mile loop through quieter roads of Westwood, Dover, Sherborn, and Natick. We will take a social break for coffee/muffins (optional) halfway in Natick. Rider must be confident riding 2 lane roads. Helmet, spare inner tube, and water a must. Open to 8 participants. Approximate trip time of 3—3-1/2 hours. L Jodi Jensen (781-249-8346, jodiajensen@gmail.com) CL Ulbricht, Leonard (lenu44@gmail.com)

CAPE HIKES

Sun., Oct. 17. Hike Shallow Pond, East Falmouth, MA. With a GPS or smartphone, the parking lot is across from 225 Thomas B Landers Rd., East Falmouth., MA. This hike is in a 70-acre conservation area in East Falmouth called Shallow Pond Woodlands as well as an adjacent 68-acre parcel, Breivogel Ponds. The distance will be about 4 miles and the hike will take about 2 1/4 hours. There are a couple of hills but most of the hike will be relatively flat and easy. Please meet at 1245 and after an introduction and review of safety measures, we will depart by 1300. Registration is required and masks are recommended during the introduction. If you have symptoms of Covid-19, or test positive before the hike, please cancel. Significant rain will cancel the hike. If, after registering, you find that you cannot attend, please cancel online and let the leader know. For specific driving directions, or for questions, please contact the Leader. We look forward to having you join us on this hike. L John Gould (508-540-5779, jhgould@comcast.net, Has been leading hikes for Cape Hiking for over 17 years.)

Thu., Oct. 21. Hike--Bourne T, Bourne, MA. This pre-registered 4+ mile, 2 hour hike is limited to 19 participants and 1 leader. This hike is not suitable for novice hikers. The terrain is over wooded trails and fire roads with frequent rolling hills in a loop without easy bailout points. Participants must have sturdy hiking footwear, water, and insect repellent. Bring hiking poles if preferred. Driving directions to the trailhead will be sent to pre-registered participants. L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, robinmcintyre@comcast.net, Robin is a 6th year Level 1 SEM/Cape Hike leader with previous WFA training.)

Sat., Oct. 23. Hike Marconi Beach Wellfleet, MA. We will be meeting at 9:45 AM on Saturday, October 23, at the Marconi Beach parking lot in Wellfleet. To find this parking lot travel north on Route 6 in Wellfleet to the first traffic light turning right at the brown sign, "Marconi Area". Follow the signs to Marconi Beach and park at the far end on the right side of the lot. This is a 3 hour hike in the National Seashore on dirt roads, wooded trails, and with high cliff views of the ocean covering 5.2 miles. L Richard Kaiser (508-246-7582 Before 9 PM, rjkaiser@comcast.net)



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

CAPE HIKING

Thu., Oct. 28. Hiking Cape Cod Canal & Town Neck Beach, MA. 4-4.5 miles starting along the canal heading east. We'll continue along Town Neck Beach at low tide, check out the oyster farm at the iconic Sandwich boardwalk and head back via the Town Neck neighborhood. A stretch of rocky, sand-starved beach is the trickiest part of the route. Meet at 9:45 a.m. for a 10:00 START from Sandwich Rec Area prkg at end of Freezer Rd adjacent to Fisherman's View Restaurant, 20 Freezer Rd. Rt 6 to Rt 130N to end > Cross 6A > Tupper Rd x 0.8 mi > LEFT on Freezer Rd x 0.2 mi. From Bourne take Sandwich Rd E exit > 6A. From Sagamore Bridge take 6A exit 55/old 1C. Rain cancels. Email Leader to register. L Barbara Gaughan (781-572-1321 Before 9 p.m., barbaragaughan12@comcast.net, AMC Level 1 hike & bike leader)

Sat., Oct. 30. Hike Falmouth Moraine Trail, Goodwill Park, Falmouth, MA. Nine mile, 5-hour hike along the Buzzards Bay moraine, and a pond, with lunch stop. Meet in Goodwill Park in Falmouth at 0830, and we will carpool at 0845 to the trail start at 0900. These times are an hour earlier than usual because of the length of the hike. Directions: From the Mashpee rotary, take Rt 151 west 3.4 miles and turn Left at Sandwich Rd. Go 3.7 miles and turn Right onto Brick Kiln Rd; go 0.9 miles and turn Left onto Gifford St. After 1.1 miles turn Right to enter Goodwill Park and continue 0.3 miles to parking. This hike has areas with hills and is moderately difficult. Sturdy boots and hiking poles are recommended. Bring lunch, water and snack. A mask is recommended for the meetup and required for the carpooling to the beginning of the hike. Ticks and poison ivy will be encountered. Registration is required and if you have symptoms of Covid-19, or test positive before the hike, please cancel. Significant rain will cancel the hike. If, after registering, you find that you cannot attend, please cancel online and let the leader know. For specific driving directions, or for questions, please contact the Leader. We look forward to having you join us on this hike. L John Gould (508-540-5779, jhgould@comcast.net)

Sun., Oct. 31. Hike Crowes Pasture, Dennis, MA. This is a registered required hike. Please contact leader if you have difficulty. Hike in Crowes Pasture, along surrounding marsh and beach and through historic Quivet Neck neighborhood. Expect soft sand! L Deborah Hayden (508-274-2820, shaferhayden@gmail.com)

Sat., Nov. 6. Hike Marconi Station Wellfleet, MA. We will be meeting at 9:45 AM on Saturday, November 6, at the Marconi Station Site parking lot in Wellfleet. To find this parking lot travel north on Route 6 in Wellfleet to the first traffic light turning right at the brown sign, "Marconi Area". Follow the signs to Marconi Station Site and park on the left side of the lot. This is a 3-hour hike in the National Seashore on dirt roads, wooded trails, and with high cliff views of the ocean covering 6.1 miles. L Richard Kaiser (508-246-7582 Before 9 PM, rjkaiser@comcast.net)

Sun., Nov. 14. Hike Indian Lands Dennis, MA. This is approximately a 4 mile hike starting on the Cape Cod Rail Trail Parking Lot on Rt 134 in Dennis, MA. From Rte 6 take Exit 78B (Old Exit 9B), right off the exit and travel approximately. 3/4ths of a mile and after passing under Bike Trail Bridge that spans Rt 134 take an immediate left into the parking lot. We will meet up at the back of the lot adjacent to the information signs. We will walk along the Rail Trail initially and stop at one of the 16 Historic cemeteries in Dennis. We will then walk along trails following the the Bass River. Contact me if you have any questions. L Margaret Christen (832-443-7321 Before 9PM, margaret@mchristen.net, 1st year Level 1 Hike Leader)

Thu., Nov. 18. Hike Quashnet River, Falmouth / Mashpee, MA. This is a registration required hike. Please contact leader if your are having difficulty. This is a 4.2 mile hike at a moderate pace along the Quashnet River and through adjacent woods. About 1/2 of the hike will be on moderate rolling terrain. L Deborah Hayden (508-274-2820, shaferhayden@gmail.com)

Sat., Nov. 20-20. Hike Cahoon Hollow Wellfleet, Wellfleet, MA, MA. We will be meeting at 9:45 AM on Saturday, November 20, at the Great Pond, Wellfleet, parking lot. To find this area, travel North on Route 6 in Wellfleet and turn right onto Cahoon Hollow Road just after the new Cumberland Farms. Travel 1 mile on Cahoon Hollow Road and then park in a large, paved parking lot on the left. This 2.5-hour hike covers 4.6 miles of forests, soft beach hills, and 1 mile of beach walking. Contact me if you have any questions. L Richard Kaiser (508-246-7582 Before 9 PM, rjkaiser@comcast.net)

Sun., Nov. 21. Hike--Bourne S, Bourne, MA. This pre-registered hike with a limit of 14 participants, 4+ miles, 2 hours, will take place in Bourne. The wooded trails have frequent rolling hills with leaves, rocks, and roots to negotiate. Participants should have sturdy hiking footwear, water, and insect repellent. Directions to the trailhead will be sent to pre-registered participants. L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, robinmcintyre@comcast.net, Robin is a 6th year Level 1 SEM/Cape Hike leader with previous WFA training)



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

CAPE HIKES

Sat., Dec. 4. Hike Great Pond Wellfleet, MA. We will be meeting at 9:45 AM on Saturday, December 4, at the Great Pond, Wellfleet, parking lot. To find this area, travel North on Route 6 in Wellfleet and turn right onto Cahoon Hollow Road just after the new Cumberland Farms. Travel 1 mile on Cahoon Hollow Road and then park in a large, paved parking lot on the left. This 2.5-hour hike covers 5.2 miles of forests, soft beach hills, and a beach overview. L Richard Kaiser (508-246-7582 Before 9 PM, rjkaiser@comcast.net)

Sat., Dec. 18. Hike Newcomb Hollow Wellfleet, MA. We will be meeting at 9:45 AM on Saturday, December 18, at the Newcomb Hollow Beach Parking Lot. This is a wooded 4.5 mile hike around numerous ponds and a short beach walk. From Rte 6 in Wellfleet go right on Lecount Hollow Rd to the end at the beach gatehouse. Then left on Ocean View Rd for 3.3 miles where it ends at the Newcomb Hollow Beach Parking Lot. Contact me if you have any questions. L Richard Kaiser (508-246-7582 Before 9 PM, rjkaiser@comcast.net)

Sun., Dec. 19. Hike--Wareham G, Wareham, MA. This pre-registered hike with a limit of 19 participants is 4+ miles in Wareham. The wooded trails have some minor hills and rocks/roots to negotiate in conservation areas. Waterproof hiking shoes/boots are required and microspikes/Yak Trax and poles if snowy/icy. Bring water. Directions to the trailhead will be sent to registered participants. L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, robinmcintyre@comcast.net, Robin is a 6th year Level 1 SEM/Cape Hike Leader with previous WFA training.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing. SEM Education Chair, MA. The role of the Education Chair is to coordinate and supervise programs to improve the skills of SEM's members and activity leaders. The Education Committee's core programs are Leadership Training and Wilderness First Aid. In addition, the Education Committee's goals include supporting the chapter and other SEM committees to develop on line or in person programs that contribute to education. The position requires you to be present for any in person training classes supported by the Education Committee. An effective candidate will demonstrate a willingness to collaborate & share new ideas. A love of nature is also a plus. For more information, contact L Diane Simms (chair@amcsem.org) CL Alan Greenstein (nominating.com@amcsem.org)

Ongoing. SEM Bicycling Vice Chair, MA. Are you an avid cyclist? Do you like planning and collaborating with others? Are you an active leader or interested in becoming one? The Bicycling Vice Chair assists the Bicycling Chair and leaders with questions so it's important that the candidate be a leader or be willing to become one. More info available [here](#). L Peter Linhares (bikingchair@amcsem.org) L Diane Simms (chair@amcsem.org) CL Alan Greenstein (nominating.com@amcsem.org, Alan is Chair of the SEM Nominating Committee)

Ongoing. Chair, SEM Communications, MA. Join the SEM Executive Committee! Do you love to write, coordinate activities, and engage others? The Communications Chair supports the activities of Communications Committee volunteer staff (Breeze Editor, Blast Editor, Webmaster, Social Media Administrator, etc.) to manage communications to our members. Find out more [here](#). L Diane Simms (chair@amcsem.org) CL Alan Greenstein (nominating.com@amcsem.org)

Ongoing. Chair SEM 20s & 30s Committee, MA. Help engage SEM 20s & 30s members by planning in-person activities, online socials, and social media. Be an active member of SEM's Executive Committee. More details [here](#). For more information, contact L Diane Simms (chair@amcsem.org) CL Alan Greenstein (nominating.com@amcsem.org)

CHAPTER

Sat., Nov. 6. SEM 2021 Annual Webinar Meeting, MA. The SEM Annual Meeting webinar will be held from 5-7 pm on Saturday November 6. There will be a report to the membership, election of your 2022 Executive Board, a vote on bylaw revisions, and presentation of the Distinguished Service Award. L Diane Simms (chair@amcsem.org)

HIKING

Get your 100-mile patch! Contact hikingchair@amcsem.org.

Always looking for additional hike leaders! Contact hikingchair@amcsem.org



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

HIKING

Sat., Oct. 16. FallFest - F Gilbert Hills Hike (20s & 30s), 45 Mill Street, Foxborough, MA. Join other 20s & 30s members for a hike through F Gilbert Hills State Forest as part of #FallFest. The hike will be approximately 4 miles with gentle hills. Sturdy footwear and at least 1 liter of water are required. Meet at 8:45am for a 9am start. We will plan to go out for lunch after, if there is interest. F. Gilbert Hills is a 1000-acre state forest that offers 23 miles of trails through pine and oak. The park is also part of the 30-mile Warner Trail that stretches from Sharon, Mass to Diamond Hill State park in Rhode Island. L Natalie Halloran (617-543-8560, natalie.halloran@yahoo.com) CL Jenna Whitney (781-424-9463, jenna.l.whitney@gmail.com), R Natalie Halloran (natalie.halloran@yahoo.com)

Tue., Oct. 19. Full Moon Hike at Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave., North Easton, MA. Come and hike under a Full Harvest Moon. We will be hiking about 5 miles on mainly wide flat trails between and around 2 large ponds. In the past we have seen the full moon about 90% of the time. It is a wonderous site over the water and meadows. Sturdy Hiking shoes are a must for the Fall conditions on these sometimes wet and slippery trails. A detailed Poop Sheet will be sent to you by Email after you register. Please include in your registration Email the Following Information: 1) The date of the Hike you are planning to attend. (I list multiple hikes) 2) Your Contact Number 3) A description of your latest hiking experience. L William Cannon (508-697-3560, bcannon56@gmail.com) L Nancy Coote (cranstonstreet22@gmail.com) L Patricia McNally (pmcallyma@comcast.net) L Joanne Newton (newt665@comcast.net) CL Ellen Thompson (ethompson1111@aol.com), R Bill Cannon (Bridgewater, MA 02324, bcannon56@gmail.com)

Wed., Oct. 20. MT. CHOCORUA HIKE, NH. "Chocorua's treeless granite pyramid is perhaps New England's most recognizable mountain. Reflected in the lake to its south, Chocorua is so picturesque that many claim it is the most-photographed mountain in America." (from *Into the Mountains* by Maggie Stier and Ron McAdow) It is believed that Chocorua was the name of an 18th century Native American man although no record of his life exists. There are several legends about Chocorua jumping to his death from the summit cliffs, cursing the white man and his encroaching civilization. Although it has a modest 3,490 ft. elevation, Mt. Chocorua is very rugged with a 360 degree summit view of the surrounding lakes, mountains, and forests. For this moderately difficult hike we will approach the mountain from the north via the Champney Falls and Piper Trails. Total round trip hike is 7.6 miles with 2250 feet of elevation gain. Spikes (MICROspikes, Hillsounds) will be required given the time of year and the strong possibility of ice on the trail. The last .6 miles of the trail is above tree-line. Group size will be limited to 5 participants. Contact the leader if you have questions about the hike. Online registration is required. AMC membership is not required for the online registration, but you will need to set up a free AMC online account if you do not already have one. Each person must register individually; you cannot register for a friend or household member. Once you have completed the online registration form the hike leader or coleader will contact you. The meeting location, time, and details will be emailed to the approved participants. All leaders and participants must bring a mask on the hike for emergency purposes but are not required to wear it during hiking. L Dexter Robinson (781-294-8840 7-9p, dexpcdoc@gmail.com, Dexter is an avid 4 season hiker. He is a long time AMC member leading hikes and backpacks throughout New England. He has climbed all of the 48 NH four thousand foot mountains multiple times including winter. He recently completed the Trailwrights 72 list.) L Maureen Kelly (617-943-4288 Before 8 pm, mokel773@aol.com) CL Stephen Conlin

Thu., Oct. 21. Thursday Morning Hike-Destruction Book Woods, Dartmouth, MA. Hike a moderate 5+ mile hike while exploring some of the more interesting features of this Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust property, showcasing brooks, a vernal pool, ledges, wildflowers in the spring, and an historic farmstead foundation and cemetery. You must have recently walked a comparable distance. Trails are mostly flat with some moderate inclines. Be prepared to step over tree roots and some rocks. Hiking shoes are recommended. No open-toed shoes. Bring at least 1 liter of water and snacks. Insect repellent is recommended. As with all AMC hikes, we start as a group and end as a group; nobody is left behind. The exact location and directions will be emailed after you are registered with the hike leader. Contact information is listed below. This hike is limited to 12 participants. L Walt Granda (wlggranda@aol.com) CL Sue Rollins (rollins_s@outlook.com), R Sue Rollins (rollins_s@outlook.com)

Sun., Oct. 24. Hiking Fall River Bioreserve, MA. Email leader to register: chair@amcsem.org. Enjoy a 5 mile hike in the Fall River Bioreserve -16,000 acres in the heart of the Southeastern Massachusetts region. The hike will be 2-3 hours. Beginner hikers welcome! You must have recently walked a comparable distance. Trails are mostly flat. Be prepared to step over tree roots and some rocks. Sturdy shoes required; sneakers are okay. No open-toed shoes. Dress for the weather. Heavy rain or thunderstorms will cancel. Group size will be limited. As with all AMC hikes, we start as a group and end as a group; nobody is left behind. This is one in a regular series of hikes at different locations in the Bioreserve. The exact location will be emailed to registrants who email the leader to register. No pets. L Diane Simms (chair@amcsem.org) CL Susan Rollins



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

HIKING

Thu., Oct. 28. Thursday Morning Hike - Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain (Boston), MA. Arnold Arboretum - including two vistas, bonsai exhibit, and "Explorer's garden". We will explore this "Tree museum" during a 4.5- 5.5 mile hike at a moderate pace with many photo-ops. Bring water, sturdy footwear, snack or lunch. We will meet in Jamaica Plain (Boston) at 9:45 for a 10:00 start (exact meeting point will be sent to those who are registered; shortly before the day of the hike). There's plenty of on-street parking along both sides of the nearby Arborway; or walk to the entrance from the Forest Hills Orange Line T-stop. The group will be limited to 10 participants. Steady rain will cancel the trip. Leashed dogs O.K. L Ken Cohen: Year-round hiker and snow shoe enthusiast. Joins groups in the Blue Hills, other DCR reservations, land trusts (active supporter of many), White Mountains, and our nation's National Parks. AMC-SEM Level I Hiking Leader. Longtime member of DCR's "Trail Watch" in the Blue Hills Reservation. Former At-Large Member of the Board of Trustees for the Friends of The Blue Hills. Nature photographer. (508-942-1536 Before 7:00 pm, k-cohen@comcast.net)

Sat., Oct. 30. Hike Brockton Conservation Trails, Brockton, MA. Enjoy an easy 4-5 mile hike at the beautiful woodland trails and boardwalks of Brockton's conservation properties. The hike will be 2-3 hours. Beginner hikers welcome! You must have recently walked a comparable distance. Trails are mostly flat. Be prepared to step over tree roots and some rocks. Sturdy walking shoes required; sneakers are okay. No open-toed shoes. Dress for the weather. Heavy rain or thunderstorms will cancel. Group size will be limited. Bring at least 1 liter of water and snacks. As with all AMC hikes, we start as a group and end as a group; nobody is left behind. The exact location will be emailed after you email hike leader at chair@amcsem.org. No pets. L Diane Simms (chair@amcsem.org) L Maureen Kelly (617-943-4288, mokel773@aol.com) L Natalie Halloran

Thu., Nov. 4. Winter Hiking Workshop (Zoom), MA. Learn how much fun winter hiking can be by participating in our free annual workshop! In this interactive Zoom, experienced Southeastern Mass. Chapter winter hike leaders will cover clothing, equipment, nutrition, and conditioning for safe and enjoyable winter hiking as a prelude for participating in our popular Winter Hiking Series. Together the workshop and instructional Series are designed to introduce three-season hikers to the joys of winter hiking/snowshoeing and provide a solid foundation of knowledge. We will start with one or more local hikes, then to progressively more challenging winter hikes in MA and NH. The series culminates (pandemic permitting) with the opportunity to participate in an overnight trip to an AMC hut or lodge in the White Mountains. Participation in an AMC Winter Hiking Workshop (or prior winter hiking experience) is required for participation in the Southeastern Mass. Chapter's Winter Hiking Series. **When you register, you'll receive an email from AMC Vol Call with the Zoom link.** L Paul Miller (paulallenmiller@verizon.net) L Paul Brookes

Sat., Nov. 13. Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike, End To End, Saturday November 13, 8:00am - 3:30pm, Blue Hills Reservation, Ma. Join us for a Saturday hike of the famous Skyline trail from Shea Rink to Fowl Meadow. This moderately paced 8 plus mile hike crosses numerous hills including Great Blue hill. It is a difficult and strenuous hike, not for beginners, due to its length and cumulative vertical ascent of over 2000 feet with some scrambling. Duration of hike is expected to be 7 plus hours. Participants should be in great shape and have been hiking regularly this season. Registration is required by all participants. Rain on the day of the hike will cancel as well as rain the day before. The leader will communicate exact starting time and parking location a week before the hike. L William Doherty (781-857-4148 5-8pm, wdoherity1@verizon.net, Level 1 AMC Hike Leader. Four season Blue Hill hiker. Occasional White mountain hiker. Trail maintenance volunteer.) L Joanne Newton L Barry Young (508-339-3089 Before 9 PM, Barry.young@comcast.net)

Sat.-Sun., Nov. 13-14, 9 am-4:30 pm. Map & Compass Course. Blue Hills Reservation. In this two-day weekend workshop, you will learn navigation skills using a map and compass to find your way. The course assumes no prior map or compass experience. We start with basic instruction and progress over the two days to cover some intermediate and advanced skills. On Saturday, you'll learn how to read a topographic map, how to use a compass, and how a map and compass work together. You'll get to practice your skills on a directed hike in the Blue Hills using the DCR trail map. On Sunday every group will plan their own route to find flags hidden both on and off-trail, using a US geological survey topographical map that does not show the trails. You will use the terrain features such as valleys, brooks, and hills to reach your destination. Each group will have an instructor to help facilitate the learning. Class size is capped and students assign themselves to groups of 5 to 7. In addition, each group will have an assistant teacher to help facilitate the group exercises. All activities will take place at the Blue Hills Reservation about 20 minutes south of Boston. Adult: \$70 member / \$90 non-member. Includes two full days of small group instruction. Printout of class material. Laminated crib-cards. Does not include compass. L Paul Brookes (paulbrookes1966@outlook.com, I am a four season hike leader for the Southeastern Massachusetts chapter of the AMC and lead both local hikes as well as destination hikes such as to the White Mountains (I am certified in Wilderness First Aid). You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) Register [here](#).



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

SKIING

Fri., Dec. 10-12. Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing in the Berkshires, Wainwright Inn, Great Barrington, MA. Join us for cross country skiing, snowshoeing &/ or hiking in the beautiful Berkshires. The activities offered will depend upon snow conditions. There are many possible activity locations in the area. Participants must have their own skis/ snowshoes or rent ahead of time. The group will be staying at the Wainwright Inn, in Great Barrington, MA. Breakfast is included. Participants will need to contact the inn to reserve their room. (413) 528-2062. wainwrightinn.com. L Jeannine Audet (508-493-8221 Weeknights after 7:00 pm, weekends anytime., milmod@aol.com) L Dia Prantis (617-504-8797, dprantis@yahoo.com)

TRAILS

Volunteer Opportunities

Sat., Oct. 16. Trail Maintenance in the Blue Hills, Milton, MA. No experience necessary! Everyone welcome! Trail: Skyline Trail between Houghton's Pond and Route 28. Where to meet: Directions will be emailed to registered volunteers. AMC will supply tools. Please bring your own work gloves, water, snack, wear appropriate clothing (long pants/long sleeve shirt, boots, hat), sunscreen, bug spray. No open toe sandals! Please contact the leader to register no later than Wednesday, October 13, 2021. All tools will be cleaned prior to and after this trailwork event. L Skip Maysles (774-284-5080 Before 9 pm, skip.maysles@outlook.com) L Stephen Scala



THE END