

The Southeast Breeze

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club | January 2022

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The White Trail Tracing (WTT) group closed out 2021 with a four-hour trek through the Blue Hills. *Photo by Pam Johnson*

White Trail Tracers hike through rain to sunshine

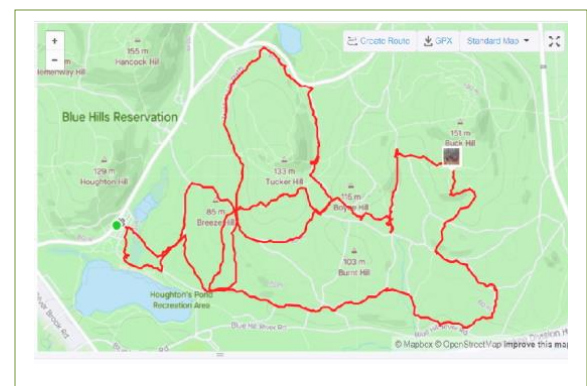
By Pam Johnson, Hike Leader

We started December 28th in the misty fine rain of winter, slopped our way through the mud, down the hollows, over the river, up the Oblique Trail, through the snowflake-strewn white pines—and ended in sunshine and lovely 46-degree temps! Congrats to this group of 20 hikers!

Here are the stats:

Distance: 6.85 miles
Elapsed Time: 3:54:11
Moving Time: 2:43:56
Pace: 2.5 mph (another speedy pace!)
Elevation: 909 feet

We hiked all of the trails planned, including the "Tail Waggers." Thank you all for being so cheery on a dreary day. We turned the rain into sunshine! Happy New Year!





View from the Chair: Welcome New Executive Committee Members!

The SEM Executive Committee approved two new ExComm members in our January meeting. Barry Young is our new Paddling Chair. Shannon Garber is our new 20's & 30's Chair.

Barry succeeds Ed Foster, a 50+ year AMC member who provided years of service to AMC-SEM and continues to be a Paddling and Bicycling leader. I appreciate all that Ed has done for SEM and I am glad he'll still be leading.



Barry doesn't need any introduction for many of you. He served five years on SEM's ExComm as Chapter Vice Chair, then Chair, then Past Chapter Chair, which is an official voting position. A Paddling leader and four-season Hiking leader, Barry was lead organizer for the 2019 AMC-wide Fall Gathering hosted by SEM. He has also been a valuable source of knowledge and advice for me, as have the other recent past chapter chairs. On a recent hike, I asked Barry to consider returning to the SEM ExComm as Paddling Chair and I am delighted he accepted. The Paddling committee has been fairly quiet the last two seasons with COVID-19. Barry's goal is to revitalize the committee and seek more leaders. Interested in helping? Email paddlingchair@amcsem.org.

On another hike in October, Nominating Committee member Susan Rollins described our open positions and asked who might be interested. Shannon Garber raised her hand. We hiked and talked about two positions she was well suited for. After talking further with Nominating Committee Chair Alan Greenstein, Shannon decided the 20's & 30's Chair was her best fit. She's interested in getting people outdoors and connecting with a community of her peers. She already has ideas on how to engage with younger members. Shannon's career has focused on building community programs and volunteer leadership for nonprofits in Massachusetts. She spends as much free time as possible outdoors, from hiking to paddling to teaching wilderness yoga! Interested in the 20's & 30's Committee? Email Shannon at 20s30schair@amcsem.org.



I want to hear your input! Join me on one of the local hikes I generally offer several times a month or contact me at chair@amcsem.org.



Diane Simms, Chapter Chair

2022 Executive Board

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Social Media Administrator Lisa Robitaille
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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.



AMC-SEM members enjoyed cross-country skiing in 2018.
Photo by Paul Brookes

Weekend of winter activities at AMC Noble View Center February 18-20

By Paul Brookes, Hiking Chair

On February 18th the SEM Chapter is putting on its tenth annual winter weekend get-away at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA, approximately 2 hours' drive west of Boston. There are spots open, so let us show you the joys of winter hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing from this beautiful, heated lodge in central Massachusetts.

One great aspect of the location is that a paved and plowed access road allows you to drive right up to the Noble View center, unpack, and then park your car 100 yards back down the road in a convenient and safe parking lot on the Noble View property. So, if you're new to winter activities, this is a great way to take part in these activities without the additional challenge and stress of having to backpack all your food and equipment up to your base camp.

Noble View is one of the AMC's larger land holdings. On 358 acres atop a quiet, pristine mountain, it offers great views of the Pioneer Valley and of Mt. Wachusett. From the cottage decks, the hill offers great sledding below the tree line. Trails wind through quiet woodlands past cellar holes, brooks, and two stunning waterfalls.

The center boasts three buildings: two modernized cottages with drinking water, electricity, and wood stoves (that keep the cottages toasty); and a heated bathhouse with composting toilets, hot showers, and running water for cleaning dishes. It's all quite comfy.

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing will be offered, assuming enough snow, and hiking otherwise. Participants will need to bring their own equipment.

The chapter reserves all rooms in both cottages for the weekend, so we have the place to ourselves. I can attest that it is a fun, social weekend with lots of activities.

Costing just \$110 for AMC members and \$120 for non-members, you cannot get better value for money. Your fee includes two nights group lodging and six hot meals, starting with dinner Friday evening and running through lunch on Sunday.

Let me give you a sense for the weekend. Most folks arrive between 2 pm and 7 pm on Friday, depending on whether they're working. Folks pick their beds, settle in, and meet the rest of the participants. Self-serve hot food is available in the kitchen throughout Friday evening. For all other meals, we sit down and eat together. Later in the evening, we'll have an icebreaker to get to know one another and review the offerings for the weekend.

Most people take part in one of the organized activities, but some choose to do an activity of their own or simply sit in front of the fire and read. The Noble View weekend is intended to be relaxing, unpretentious, and easy-going. The main cottage boasts two large comfy lounges kept toasty warm by a wood stove. Cards, board games, Jenga, and jigsaw puzzles are available.

On Saturday we will get up for a hot breakfast and then prepare for the morning activity. Due to the relatively low elevation over the years, we have explored trails that are snow-covered, icy, or free from snow and ice. We will go at a leisurely-to-moderate pace comfortable for all.



It's always hiking weather on Noble View weekend. *Photo by Paul Brookes*

Continued on page 4



Left: The 2019 Noble View group of 22 people and two dogs.
Above Left: The Kitchen Krew from the 2014 weekend.
Above Right: A visit to the Little River in 2020.

Noble View weekend

Photos by Paul Brookes

Continued from page 3

After the morning activity, we will return to the cottage for a hot lunch that the volunteer cooks (amazing people) have been preparing. After lunch, afternoon activities will be provided. The leaders will take you on different trails from the morning; some years we go down and view the frozen Big Pitcher and Little Pitcher waterfalls, a stunning sight in the winter.

After the return from the afternoon hike, during social hour you can take part in a group yoga class, socialize over a glass of wine (bring your own wine & appetizers), or pull out a board game or puzzle.

After dinner, we'll put on a night hike. This is a reflective hike: We will stop on a trail, turn off our headlamps, listen to the sounds of darkness, and if clear do some star gazing.

In addition, on Sunday there will be a hearty breakfast, followed by a morning hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski. After the morning activity, a lunch of leftovers is laid out.

If you are considering registering for this weekend, here are a couple of logistical items. First, I will have my well-behaved dog, Sunny, with me. He loves people and is totally not reactive. During the weekend he may be off leash, both in the cottages and on the trails with us. There will be no other pets.

Second, since we will be using shared bedrooms, for the safety of the group all participants will need to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of the weekend.

This fun and relaxing weekend is very popular and in past years has filled up fast, so I recommend you register early by emailing Walt Granda at wlganda@aol.com.

View the listing [here](#).



Pitcher Brook Falls



Sunshine and snow 2014



Cook Team 2020



Twirlin' 2014



Jenga 2018



Night sledding 2014



Volunteer of the Month: Maureen Kelly

By Paul Brookes, Hiking 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 Hiking Committee recognizes Maureen Kelly for her numerous contributions.

Maureen has been a member of the AMC for 15 years; she became a hike leader in 2010 and has been a Class 3 Winter Hike leader for seven years. For those newer to our chapter, Maureen was our Chapter Chair for the 2014 to 2016 slot (chapter chairs serve two-year terms). She was also past Conservation Chair and was winner of the SEM Distinguished Service Award four years ago.

Maureen is consistently leading hikes. I looked it up in our Activities Database, and Maureen has led more than one hundred hikes since she became a hike leader eleven years ago—106 to be precise! This year was no different with Maureen leading a dozen hikes.

As well as local hikes, she helps as a leader on Anne Duggan's popular snowshoes hikes and is one of the many Class 3 Winter Hike leaders needed to run the Intro to Winter Hiking Series hikes.

This year, together with Diane Simms, she led several of the successful Brockton Conservation Trail hikes. Recently, Maureen and Barry Young put on a very enjoyable Solstice Walk along the beach at Plymouth Long Beach. It was a surprisingly dark sky, given the surrounding towns, and Barry pointed out three planets that were in alignment.

Maureen was a presenter at this fall's Winter Hiking Workshop and is an active member of a terrific team that is organizing and leading this winter's Intro to Winter Hiking Series (any of whom are deserving of the Volunteer of the

Month award). If you've not yet seen it, check out the video of our workshop [here](#).

Maureen quickly jumps in to help mentor new and advancing leaders and, in fact, this year provided four letters of recommendation for hike leaders wanting to advance to higher levels. Maureen has a friendly and approachable spirit, watching out for people and encouraging participants in her hikes, assuring them that that they're doing great.

So, thank you, Maureen, for all you do! It is greatly appreciated. Maureen will receive a Volunteer of the Month certificate and a \$50 gift card.

Make a New Year's Resolution

By Susan Rollins, Nominating Committee

As we greet another year, we continue to find ourselves in difficult times as another variant of COVID-19 looms. Despite this obstacle, the spirit of our SEM Chapter reigns strong – we have gained new members, new hike leaders, new experiences, new friends. Many of these gains have come through the dedicated leadership of our members—and, in a spirit of gratitude to those who hold or have newly stepped into these positions, we thank you.

With these positive achievements in mind, we, as members of the Nominating Committee, again reach out to our leaders and membership at large for your help in filling the several open positions listed on our Chapter website. Our Chapter cannot continue to offer the numerous quality activities if only a few are willing to serve its goals. We need the willingness of our members to step up and help fill these positions. Ask yourself: can I spare a few extra hours a month to help maintain our Chapter's viability? Or can I reach out to another member who may need that personal invitation to help the Chapter reach its goals for 2022 and thereafter?

Let's all welcome the New Year with optimism and gratefulness for the commitments and dedication of our current leaders and resolve to work together to fill our vacant positions! Remember, it really does take a village!





Left: Bird nest.
Photo by Bill Dougherty



Right: Ski pole shows
scale of tracks.
Photo by Peggy Quicklund



Left: Clear tracks for
identification. *Photo
by Joanne Newton*



Right: Porcupine
damage. *Courtesy
USDA Forestry
Service*

Wildlife tracking online event

By Diane Simms, Chapter Chair

Register now for the [SEM Wildlife Tracking Online Event](#).

This is a repeat of last year's fun online Zoom event to identify and share photos of wildlife signs in the winter. Education Coordinator Pam Landry from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife and Pat Little of Northeast Wildlife Trackers will help us identify what we find.

Email your photos and descriptions to chair@amcsem.org by Feb 17. You can send photos individually as you have them. The Zoom session will be February 24 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Your photos may be published in the SEM Breeze newsletter and/or on SEM's Facebook page, unless you specify not to.

In addition to the animal prints, take a photo of the trail showing the pattern of movement on the landscape to help with knowing a bit of the backstory. This could include written notation on snow conditions (deep, icy, fluffy, depth); behavior (moving in a straight line, moving from tree to tree, moving in and out of the water, zig-zagging from tree to tree, etc.); other sign (food, nests, dens, scat, quills, feathers, placement of urine, etc.); or supporting information. It is very helpful to include something for scale—preferably a ruler!—in the photo.

Tracking is more than just footprints! Sign (spoor) is also very important, and so are images of chewed nuts, chewed bark, claw marks, scat, nests, digs, broken branches, cocoons, burrow, overturned logs, etc. The same thing applies when observing and trying to ID sign, which is including something for scale—preferably that ruler!—and providing the context in which the sign was found.

Registration is open for the AMC 2022 Annual Summit online

By Diane Simms, Chapter Chair

On January 22, 2022, AMC will hold a 100% virtual [Annual Summit](#). Volunteers and Staff will be offering a day of quality workshops, presentations, and other content in an online format.

We are excited about the potential to reach a broader audience of people who previously have not been able to attend our in-person events in Massachusetts and to showcase some of the incredible online content that has been developed over the last year.

Registration for the Annual Summit is now open. Get full details and [register here](#).

Conservation Corner

Small Steps to Conservation

By Ellen Thompson

With 2021 at a close, we have the opportunity to reflect on how we have improved our personal conservation efforts and how we can do better in the coming year.

Challenge yourself to think of and try more simple actions to reduce impact and leave the world a better place. Small actions add up to big results.

For Valentine's Day, give a gift which is environmentally friendly. The red roses and cut flowers in stores are imported from countries which rely on air freight that results in carbon emissions, are packaged in non-recyclable cellophane, and require a large quantity of pesticides. Organic, locally grown flowers or plants is a better option, or sign up for a cooking class or spa day, go stargazing, or take a day trip.

On Monday, January 17, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a day of service when volunteers worked with local nonprofit groups, including conservation organizations, to benefit their communities. National Volunteer Week starts April 17 and includes Earth Day on April 22, so start thinking now about earth-friendly activities. Better yet, get involved now with conservation groups and projects such as AMC-SEM trail work.



SEM Memories



1998: The annual canoe camping trip on the Saco River during the October holiday weekend. *Submitted by A J Hart.* If you have more information about these photos or have photos from the AMC-SEM chapter's history, please contact breeze.editor@amcsem.org.

Reflections at Wompatuck Park

Photos by Susan Rollins

Sue Rollins shared these photos she took on an October 2021 hike in Wompatuck State Park led by Paul Brookes.



Perfect reflection on a perfect day in October.



Another place for quiet "reflection" overlooking Arrow River Reservoir.



Applications still being accepted for AMC August Camp openings

By Éva Borsody

I'm spreading the word about this summer's AMC August Camp in the glorious North Cascades of Washington state! Many SEM members have enjoyed attending in the past, and some of us are August Camp hike leaders!

This special AMC tradition is suitable and enjoyable for hikers of all different levels who can appreciate outdoor living in relative comfort!

The official application window for the August Camp closed January 12th, but applications for open spots and the waiting list are still being accepted. See additional information at www.augustcamp.org, and address any questions to AMC's Lois Rothenberger at ACregistrar@comcast.net.

Book your AMC winter getaway!

From snowy Valentine's Day hikes for two to planning a long weekend you'll never forget, winter is a special time to get outdoors.

Check out the range of our accommodations, amenities, and availability at any of AMC's winter lodges, cabins, and campgrounds [here](#).

Mountain Majesty

North Cascades • AMC's August Camp 2022



Explore magnificent North Cascades National Park, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas. Camp on the banks of the swift Skagit River in the shadow of 10,781 foot high glaciated Mt. Baker.

Hike, raft, bike and more, visiting many stunning waterfalls and scenic vistas on dozens of activities led by trained AMC volunteers. Just arrive and enjoy the activities and camaraderie. Everything's provided: tents, hearty, delicious meals prepared by our staff, local transportation and a free shuttle from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

July 16 through August 13. Plan to attend for one week or two. Details and registration are on our website. Camp filled by early February last year, so don't miss out! Sign up early for the week(s) you want!

Week 1: July 16 — July 23

Week 2: July 23 — July 30

Week 3: July 30 — Aug. 6

Week 4: Aug. 6 — Aug. 13

Cost per person per week: AMC Member \$1275; Non-member \$1525

The general application window for August Camp 2022 is January 3-12, 2022. Acceptance will be made based on a random lottery system, but applications will continue to be accepted until Camp is full and a substantial waitlist is generated. Visit our website www.augustcamp.org for additional information.

Questions? Ask Lois Rothenberger at ACregistrar@comcast.net

Photos by Jim Borowski, August Camp 2013

augustcamp.org



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](https://www.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](https://www.outdoors.org), and then click My Outdoors.

COVID 19 INFORMATION

As of December 1, 2021, AMC requires volunteers be vaccinated or receive a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of an event. AMC relies on the honor system for compliance. Participants must be vaccinated or get a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of the event. Participants may be required to wear masks, provide proof of vaccination, or in the alternative a current (within 72 hours) negative PCR test as a condition of attending this event. For your personal safety, you should expect to be in the presence of vaccinated and unvaccinated people in all AMC settings and should make choices about participating accordingly.

CAPE HIKES

Sat., Jan. 22, 9:45AM - 12:30PM, Truro, MA. This 2.5-hour hike covers 4.2 miles of hills, forests, amazing ocean views, and a short beach walk. If icy conditions, you will need crampons or spikes on your boots and poles. We will be meeting at 9:45 AM on Saturday, January 22, at the Ballston Beach, Truro, parking lot. To find this area, travel North on Route 6 in Truro and turn right at the "Pamet Roads / Truro Center" sign. Turn right at the end of the ramp and then a left onto South Pamet Road. Follow South Pamet Road to the end and park in the Ballston Beach Parking Lot. No registration required, but contact me if you have any questions. Richard Kaiser 508-246-7582 (best time to call: Before 9 PM) rjkaiser@comcast.net

Sun., Jan. 23, 12:45-3 PM, Hike Long Pond; Falmouth, MA. This is a 4.5 mile 2 hour hike in the Falmouth Town Forest with scenic views of Long Pond and a small kettle hole. The hike includes some hilly sections with uneven footing. Heavy precipitation cancels. If conditions are icy micro spikes or equivalent and poles will be required. L: Deborah Hayden shaferhayden@gmail.com.

Thurs., Jan. 27, 9:45AM - 12:00PM, Hike Mashpee River Woodlands; Mashpee, MA. Approx. 4 mile hike through woodland and along the Mashpee River with some marsh views. Generally easy terrain but with exposed roots and there are several short but steep inclines. Hikers should have sturdy footwear, water, and poles if desired. If icy conditions, bring Yak Trax or similar boot spikes. L: Janis Delmonte, [Email](#) this person.

Sun., Jan. 30, 12:45-3 PM, Shaw Farm Trail, Mattapoisett/Fairhaven, MA. Join us for a pre-registered, Sunday afternoon, flat 5-mile hike in Mattapoisett/Fairhaven. We'll start at the Phoenix Bike Trail and then walk along stone wall flanked farm fields, over boardwalks, through the wood, around a meadow, and along Nasketucket Bay. The trail has exposed roots and can be muddy. Sturdy winter footwear and water are required. If icy and cold, microspikes or similar devices are advised. Wear layers for varying wind and temperature conditions. Driving directions will be sent to pre-registered participants. Registration opens Jan. 23. L ; Robin McIntyre robinmcintyre@comcast.net. Robin is a 6th year Class 1 SEM/Cape Hike leader with prior WFA training. Co-L: Marcella Rippel. Marcella is co-leading this hike to complete her Class 1 certification.



Activities

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

CAPE HIKES

Sun., Feb. 6, 12:45-3PM, Hiking Johns Pond Park Conservation Area, Mashpee, MA. 4 mile hike in a 227 acre conservation property that has abandoned cranberry bogs that have become shallow fresh water marshes, a freshwater kettle pond, woodlands, Quashnet River headwaters and a town beach. Terrain is a combination of woodland trails, soft sand, loose gravel, dirt roads. Mostly flat. Gentle hills. A few downed trees to step over, around or thru. Hunting is allowed in all Mashpee conservation areas though hunting is prohibited on Sunday by MA state law. L: Barbara Gaughan, 781-572-1321 (best time to call: Before 9 p.m.), barbaragaughan12@comcast.net, SEM Class 1 leader.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Ongoing. SEM Bicycling Chair and 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](#). 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)

HIKING

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

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

Sun., Jan. 23, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM, Hike the Fall River Bioreserve, Copicut Woods, Westport, MA. Enjoy a 4 mile hike in the Fall River Bioreserve. The hike will be 2.5 -3 hours. You must have recently walked a comparable distance. Trails are mostly flat. Be prepared to step over tree roots and some rocks and there may be icy areas with the precipitation and colder temperatures we can have at this time of year. Sturdy shoes required, suitable for colder temps. Dress for the weather; layers are better than a heavy jacket. Extreme weather will cancel the hike but the hike will not be cancelled for rain. Traction devices will be required if there is packed snow/ice. Leader will let you know. As with all AMC hikes, we start as a group and end as a group; nobody is left behind. No pets. Registration required [here](#). L: Joanne Newton, 508-215-9470, newt665@comcast.net. Joanne is a Class 2 Leader for the Southeastern MA Chapter. Barry Young, [Email](#) this person.

Sun., Jan. 23, SEM Snowshoe 2, Squam Lake Region; Holderness, NH. We will continue the tradition of 1 ½ days of snowshoeing in the Squam Lakes Region. On our Saturday afternoon 1/2 day hike we will enjoy up close views of Squam Lake East and West Rattlesnake Mountains via the Old Bridal Path. This 3.7 mile round trip has 900 feet of elevation gain. Sunday's hike will head 1 mile down the road to Center Sandwich. The Eastman Brook trail, a newly constructed trail, starts at the Five Fingers trailhead. It winds through woods and fields to Thompson Road and The Doublehead Trail. The trail climbs up the side of Doublehead Mountain to the Crawford Ridgepole trail which leads to the summit. Doublehead look out provides picturesque lake views. If time and weather and group conditions allow the hike may continue along the ridge towards Squam Mountain. This hike is 5.3 miles long with 1600 feet of elevation gain. Participants choosing to stay overnight on Saturday are expected to make their own arrangements. Registration required. This activity has a [Wait List](#). L: Anne B Duggan, 508-789-5538 (best time to call: before 9 pm), abduggan12@gmail.com. Anne has been a SEM hike leader for more than 10 years! She enjoys leading winter hikes and snowshoes, and has hiked the 48 NH 4K mountains. She is a graduate of AMC's Mountain Leadership School. L: Diane Hartley, 508-566-6517 (best time to call: 5:00-8:00 pm), dihartley@comcast.net. Diane is a four-season hiker and SEM Class 4 hike leader. She enjoys exploring the flora and fauna of Southeastern Massachusetts' many local conservation properties and summer backpacking in the Northeast, but her true passion lies in higher peaks, particularly the White Mountains of NH. L: Eva Das borsody@gmail.com.



Activities

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

HIKING

Tues., Jan. 25, 9:45AM - 2:00PM, Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike #6. Blue Hills Reservation, MA. "Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills" is an honor system quest to hike all of the mapped trails in the Blue Hills Reservation between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. For most folks, Winter Trail Tracing takes several winter seasons to complete, hiking trails both on their own as well as in our fun Winter Trail Trace Group. This series has 13 hikes and runs from December 21, 2021 through March 15, 2022. Registration is required each week for the 13 hikes. Group size will be limited to 20 participants. For this FIRST hike we will meet at 10:45 AM for a hike start of 11 AM to coincide with the precise beginning of Winter. For all other hikes we will meet Tuesdays at 9:45 AM to hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3-4 hours at a moderate pace, stopping to enjoy lunch while we're out hiking. Our final hike will be shorter with a celebration indoor luncheon after the hike. Winter clothing, insulated winter hiking boots, traction equipment (micro-spikes), snow shoes, and hiking poles are a must. Prior winter hiking experience is helpful but we welcome hikers who have proper clothing and gear to register. A complete clothing and gear list will be reviewed with you when you register. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com. Pam loves being outdoors all year round! She is an AMC SEM Class 1 Hike Leader. Pam is a leader for the Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills and the Spring Conditioning Series in the Blue Hills. Pam has climbed the NH 48 Four Thousand Footers and is now working on the 52 With A View (WAV) list. Registration is required [here](#). Lots of fun, adventure, no bugs, and gorgeous winter landscapes! Registration opens Jan. 18, at 6:00 PM. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com.

Tues., Feb. 1, 9:45AM - 2:00PM, Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike #7. Blue Hills Reservation, MA. Lots of fun, adventure, no bugs, and gorgeous winter landscapes! Registration opens Jan. 25, at 6:00 PM. See details of the series at the Jan. 25th listing. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com.

Thurs., Feb. 3, 10:00AM - 2:00PM, Thursday Morning Hike - Norton/Mansfield Great Woods, Norton/Mansfield, MA. Meeting in Mansfield Great Woods dirt parking lot near 145 Oak Street Hike in the Great Woods from Norton thru to Mansfield Natural Resources Trust. Carpooling/spotting from Mansfield NRT to trail head on Freeman Street in Norton with side street parking. (Directions below) Flat roaming hike with glacial eskers, old mill dam and early 19th century Coddington Farm site. Bring water, lunch or snacks and dress for the weather. Heavy Rain/Snow will cancel hike. Possible shorter snowshoe hike. Registration is not required for this activity. However, you may wish to contact the leader(s) if you have any questions. L: Richard Carnes 508-947-3204 (best time to call: before 8 PM) rcarnes2@aol.com.

Fri., Feb. 4-Sun., Feb. 6, Winter Hike #5: Overnight at Zealand Falls Hut, NH. Join us for the 5th hike in the Winter Hiking Series. We will hike into Zealand Falls Hut, our home base for the weekend. There are a variety of beautiful hikes from the hut, & the views in the winter are breathtaking. The group will carry in our food & prepare meals at the hut. Participants must have attended a prior Winter Hiking Workshop & have winter hiking experience. Full winter gear, including sleeping bag rated to 0 degrees, required. Registration required [here](#). Adult: \$78 member / \$96 non-member covers two nights accommodation at Zealand Hut. Additional costs for food will be shared by participants. L: Jeannine Audet, 508-493-8221 (best time to call: Weeknights after 7:00 pm, weekends anytime); milmod@aol.com. Jeannine enjoys sharing the beauty of the outdoors with others year round. L: Anne B Duggan, 508-789-5538 (best time to call: before 9 pm), abduggan12@gmail.com. Anne has been a SEM hike leader for more than 10 years! She enjoys leading winter hikes and snowshoes and has hiked the 48 NH 4K mountains. She is a graduate of AMC's Mountain Leadership School.

Sat., Feb. 5, SEM Intermediate Level Winter Hike #3 In Crawford Notch, NH. This hike is designed for experienced winter hikers in good physical condition. The weather and trail conditions of the day will determine our exact route. We have tentatively planned an 8.4-mile hike with approximately 3100 ft of elevation gain over a seven-to-eight-hour timespan. Full winter gear and clothing will be needed, including MICROspikes (or equivalent traction), snowshoes, winter boots and possibly crampons. Registration is required for this activity. Please contact leader(s). Once you register for the event, a leader will contact you. L: Diane Hartley, dihartley@me.com, Diane is a four-season hiker and SEM Class 4 hike leader. She enjoys exploring the flora and fauna of local conservation properties and summer backpacking in the Northeast, but her true passion lies in summiting higher peaks. Diane has hiked New Hampshire's 48 4,000 footers and looks forward to more hiking challenges in the future. Diane completed AMC's 2021 Mountain Leadership School Training. L: Anne B Duggan [Email](#) this person. Anne has been a SEM hike leader for more than 10 years! She enjoys leading winter hikes and snowshoes and has hiked the 48 NH 4K mountains. She is a graduate of AMC's Mountain Leadership School.



Activities

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

HIKES

Tues., Feb. 8, 9:45AM - 2:00PM, Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike #8. Blue Hills Reservation, MA. Lots of fun, adventure, no bugs, and gorgeous winter landscapes! Registration opens Feb. 1, at 6:00 PM. See details of the series at the Jan. 25th listing. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com.

Thurs., Feb. 10, 9:45 am-2:00 PM, Thursday Morning Hike, Myles Standish State Forest, Plymouth/Carver, MA. This 7 mile hike will take us around the East Head Pond trail and the Bentley trail. The East Head Pond trail circles a scenic pond on mostly flat trails and boardwalks. The Bentley trail has some gentle hills on narrow trails through meadows, pine forests and near several ponds. The hike will be shortened to 5.5 miles if snowshoes are required. You must have recently walked a comparable distance. When we meet in the parking lot face masks will be required. Heavy rain will cancel. Required equipment: backpack, rain gear, hiking shoes, water, snacks/lunch. Snow/ice will require snowshoes or microspikes. An Information sheet with parking location and travel directions will be sent to all registered hikers several days before the hike. Registration opens Feb. 1st at 8:00 AM. L: Walt Granda, 508-971-6444, (best time to call: Before 9 PM) wlganda@aol.com; L: Eva Das. [Email](#) this leader.

Tues., Feb. 15, 9:45AM - 2:00PM, Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike #9. Blue Hills Reservation, MA. Lots of fun, adventure, no bugs, and gorgeous winter landscapes! Registration opens Feb. 8, at 6:00 PM. See details of the series at the Jan. 25th listing. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com.

Fri., Feb. 18-Sun., Feb. 20. Intro to Winter Hiking & Cross-Country Skiing at Noble View Outdoor Center; Russell, MA. AMC-SEM's tenth annual winter weekend get-away at Noble View, approximately 2 hours' drive west of Boston. Winter hiking and—weather permitting—snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing from this beautiful, heated lodge in central Massachusetts. \$110 for AMC members and \$120 for non-members includes two nights group lodging and six hot meals, starting with dinner Friday evening and running through lunch on Sunday. **Since we will be using shared bedrooms, for the safety of the group all participants will need to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of the weekend.** This fun and relaxing weekend is very popular and in past years has filled up fast, so register early by emailing Walt Granda at wlganda@aol.com. View the listing [here](#).

Tues., Feb. 22, 9:45AM - 2:00PM, Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike #10. Blue Hills Reservation, MA. Lots of fun, adventure, no bugs, and gorgeous winter landscapes! Registration opens Feb. 15, at 6:00 PM. See details of the series at the Jan. 25th listing. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com.

Thurs., Feb. 24, 7:00-8:30 PM. Zoom Wildlife Tracking Photos. This is repeat of last year's fun online Zoom event to identify wildlife signs in the winter. Education Coordinator Pam Landry from Mass Div of Fisheries & Wildlife and Pat Little of Northeast Wildlife Trackers will help us identify what we find. Email your photos and descriptions to chair@amcsem.org by Feb 17. You can send them as you have them - you don't need to collect. (Your photos may be published in the SEM Breeze newsletter unless you specify not to.) [Registration here](#) is required by Feb. 17th. L: Diane Simms, Chapter Chair, chair@amcsem.org.

Tues., Mar. 1, 9:45AM - 2:00PM, Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike #11. Blue Hills Reservation, MA. Lots of fun, adventure, no bugs, and gorgeous winter landscapes! Registration opens Feb. 22, at 6:00 PM. See details of the series at the Jan. 25th listing. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com.

Tues., Mar. 8, 9:45AM - 2:00PM, Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike #12. Blue Hills Reservation, MA. Lots of fun, adventure, no bugs, and gorgeous winter landscapes! Registration opens Mar. 1, at 6:00 PM. See details of the series at the Jan. 25th listing. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com.

Tues., Mar. 15, 9:45AM - 2:00PM, Final Winter Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike #13. Blue Hills Reservation, MA. Lots of fun, adventure, no bugs, and gorgeous winter landscapes! Registration opens Mar. 8, at 6:00 PM. See details of the series at the Jan. 25th listing. For this FINAL CELEBRATION hike, we will shorten our trail time to a few hours at a moderate pace and then we will meet up at a local favorite restaurant to enjoy an indoor lunch and celebration. Details to be announced prior to the hike. L: Pamela Johnson pjohnson8992@gmail.com.



Activities

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

SKIING

Fri., Feb. 11, 5:00PM – Sun., Feb. 13, 12:00PM, Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing in The White Mountains, North Conway, NH. Join us for a weekend of cross-country skiing & snowshoeing in the White Mountains. We will call the Old Field House in Intervale our home base. The inn is very welcoming & very close to downtown North Conway. Activities will include cross country skiing at the nearby ski resorts & hiking/ snowshoeing activities. Activities will depend upon snow/ trail conditions. Participants need to bring their own ski/ snowshoe gear or rent ahead of time. Cost per adult: \$160 member / \$160 non-member, average room rate per night, double occupancy. Rate includes breakfast for 2 days. Additional costs will apply for ski trail passes, equipment rental (if needed), lunches & dinners. We will breakfast at the inn & eat at local restaurants for dinner. Participants must be able to document that they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or have negative PCR testing within 72 hours of the trip start date. L: Jeannine Audet 508-493-8221 (best time to call: Weeknights after 7:00 pm, weekends anytime.) jhummingbirddbp@aol.com. Jeannine is the Skiing Chair, & enjoys sharing the beauty of the mountains with others. L: Leader Dia Prantis dprantis@yahoo.com. Dia is the Skiing Vice Chair & is very welcoming to all who wish to enjoy the mountains in the winter. Registration opens Dec 17 at 6:00 PM

Fri., Feb. 18-Sun., Feb. 20. Intro to Winter Hiking & Cross-Country Skiing at Noble View Outdoor Center; Russell, MA. AMC-SEM's tenth annual winter weekend get-away at Noble View, approximately 2 hours' drive west of Boston. Winter hiking and—weather permitting—snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing from this beautiful, heated lodge in central Massachusetts. \$110 for AMC members and \$120 for non-members includes two nights group lodging and six hot meals, starting with dinner Friday evening and running through lunch on Sunday. **Since we will be using shared bedrooms, for the safety of the group all participants will need to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of the weekend.** This fun and relaxing weekend is very popular and in past years has filled up fast, so register early by emailing Walt Granda at wlganda@aol.com. View the listing [here](#).



*Happy
Trails!*

THE END