

2018 AMC Fall Gathering Activities

Hike Descriptions

Hikes - degrees of difficulty are defined below.

Friday Afternoon Hike

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Bigelow Pond Loop - (Easy) Stretch your legs after your drive. Hike an easy loop around Bigelow Pond. About 2 miles. With only 49 Feet elevation gain, it's a rocky, ledge walk at times. Use of hiking poles is advised. A good introduction to Nipmuck State Forest/Bigelow Hollow State Park. We will be back in time to register for the weekend. The usual, bring a snack, enough water, and dress for the weather. Leader – Al McGunnigle.

Saturday Hikes: Departures between 9:00 am - 10:00 am (See Schedule)

Bigelow Hollow State Park West Ridge and East Ridge Trails Loop - (Strenuous) About 7.75 miles on the West Ridge and East Ridge Trails around Breakneck Pond. Great views of the Pond below from both ridges. Several sections with 200-300' elevation gain along both ridges. Many ups and downs along the way as well as a few short rock scrambles. Use of hiking poles is advised. Leader – Gene Grayson

Northern Nipmuck Trail/Yale Forest - (Moderate/Strenuous) An 8 mile hike that travels North on the Nipmuck Trail from Boston Hollow Road in Ashford and ends at Bigelow Hollow State Park. This will be a moderately paced hike with a significant amount of ups and downs. Over 250' elevation gain. There are several stream crossings and the use of hiking poles is advised. We will spot cars at Bigelow Hollow State Park and then travel about 15 minutes to the Boston Hollow Road trailhead. Leader – George Schott

Old Furnace State Park Loop Hike - (Moderate/Strenuous) A 6.0 mile moderate/challenging loop hike on blazed and un-blazed trails. The terrain is varied with roots, rocks and pine leaf littered trails. Hikers will encounter Fall Brook with a large flat boulder used for crossing, Half Hill Brook with a bridge, seasonal wet areas, moderate ascents with a couple very short steep descents and views. Use of hiking poles is advised. Over 200' elevation gain. The pace will be a comfortable 2.0 mph. Opportunity for photos. Dress for the weather. Bring 2 liters of water, trail snacks and lunch. Leader – Jill Oneglia

Bigelow Hollow State Park Nipmuck and West Ridge Trails Loop -. (Moderate/Strenuous) A moderately fast-paced 6.5 mile loop hike on a combination of trails, including the Nipmuck trail along Breakneck Pond and the Ridge Trail. Several sections with 200-300' elevation gain along the ridge. There are some steeper sections, with views, on the Ridge trail. We will visit Cat Rocks and Peter Rabbit Rock. We will keep a good pace with a few brief stops and a longer break for lunch. Wear sturdy foot wear, carry rain gear, and dress in appropriate layers of hiking clothing. Use of hiking poles is advised. Leader – Kathleen Miller

Natchaug Trail/Natchaug State Forest – (Moderate) About 6.0 to 6.5 mile wooded hike using the Natchaug Trail, a CCC trail and dirt roads. Some hills through mostly wooded areas with marsh and river views. Some areas of rough, rocky footing. Use of hiking poles is advised. Leader – June Powell

Bigelow Hollow State Park East Ridge and Breakneck Pond View Trails Loop - (Moderate/Strenuous) We will hike from Bigelow Pond North to and around Breakneck Pond using the East Ridge and Breakneck Pond View Trails. Hike is a moderate 6.5 miles with some steep sections. Use of hiking poles is advised. Several sections with 200-300' elevation gain along the ridge. Great views from the ridge. Leader – Bill McCarthy

Bigelow Hollow State Park Mashapaug Pond Trail - (Moderate) This hike is between 4 and 5 miles of up and down hills with about a 500 feet cumulative elevation gain. Trail is roots and rocks with sections of pine needle covered trails. Use of hiking poles is advised. Variety of hard woods, Pines and Mountain Laurel. Beautiful views of Mashapaug Pond. We will hike to Mashapaug Pond Overlook. The usual, bring a snack, enough water, and dress for the weather. We will stop some place along the pond for lunch. Leader – Al McGunnigle

Yale Forest Loop – (Moderate) A 6 mile loop hike on the Nipmuck Trail from Boston Hollow Road to Barlow Mill Road. Moderate to easy terrain. The Yale-Myers Forest is a working forest managed by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies for research and instruction. Route passes many old stone walls. Includes hiking over a rocky area with a stream running underground called “stream under rocks.” Use of hiking poles is advised. Leader – Mike Foley

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Connecticut Green Bank Talk and Walk – (Easy) A brief talk by representatives from Connecticut Green Bank and members of our CT-AMC Conservation Committee followed by a short walk along Black Pond at Camp Woodstock. Connecticut Green Bank is an environmentally oriented organization that has helped loan millions of dollars for energy efficiency projects. Connecticut Green Bank partners with credit unions and community banks, acting like a conduit, by making green energy financing accessible and affordable for homeowners, businesses and institutions. Other states are looking to the green bank model for applications in their areas. Leaders – Russ Charest/Kim Stevenson/Louise Venables/Andrew May

Sunday Hikes

8:30 am - 11:00 am

Old Connecticut Path Talk/Walk – (Easy) Jason Newton, a local expert will provide a fascinating look into the region's colonial past. His talk about the history of the Old Connecticut Path will be followed by a short ride so we can experience a walk along an original section of the Path. The Old Connecticut Path was used in the 1630's by citizens migrating from the Boston area to the Hartford area. It was one of the first major inland migrations by European settlers in America. The speaker, Jason Newton, is a descendant of those early settlers. Leaders – John Grasso/Jason Newton, local expert.

9:00 am 1:00 pm

General Lyons Park and Beyond - (Moderate) Hike about 7 miles at brisk pace from General Lyons Rd. in Eastford along the Natchaug Trail to the park and Beaverdam Marsh Area and return. The hike includes a visit to the General Nathaniel Lyons Memorial Park. The park honors the first Union general to be killed in the Civil War. Mostly moderate terrain including portions of the hike running along the Still River. Leaders – Connie Rokicki/Polly Silva

Bike Ride Descriptions

Saturday 9:30 am - Noon

Back Roads of Woodstock – 30 Miles

This ride starts out of Camp Woodstock and is an especially scenic ride that tours through the Quiet Corner of Connecticut while visiting the towns of Woodstock, Eastford and Pomfret on mostly back country roads with sparse traffic. Amongst other interesting scenes are those of farms, orchards, forests, historic structures & districts and much, much more.

Leaders - Susan Grant and Mel Fisher

Saturday 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

North Grosvernor Dale Pomfret - 21 Miles

Meet at Camp Woodstock at 10:00 and drive together to starting point. This ride loops around Pomfret and enjoy its bucolic vistas. The stretch of road on Rt. 169 is especially scenic (and it's predominately downhill). Leaders - Jim and Mary Ann Gleb

Sunday 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Airline Trail – 14 and 20 miles

The Airline Trail is an enjoyable flat, Mountain Bike ride that follows the Airline Trail (graded dirt road) through Pomfret, Hampton, and Natchaug State Forest. There are two options: the longer (6 mile) route follows a loop on fire roads through Natchaug State Park.

Related Website(s). Leaders - Jim and Mary Ann Gleba

<http://www.traillink.com/trail/airline-state-park-trail---south.aspx>

Flatwater Paddle Descriptions

Saturday 9:45 am - 2:45 pm

Bigelow State Park - Mashapaug Pond Boat Launch

The lake is only 5 miles from Camp Woodstock. The leader will be going there directly from home, so direct any questions to him via email by Friday evening.

Meet at 9:15AM at the Camp to travel to launch at 10AM at the boat ramp in Bigelow Hollow State Park, 285 Bigelow Hollow Road (Rt. 171), Union, for an expected launch time by 10:20 a.m. This will be a moderate paced paddle with one or two loops of about 4 miles each. We will return to the launch after the first loop for lunch, before heading out on the second loop. As required by state law after Oct. 1, paddlers must wear a zipped life jacket for the trip duration. Paddlers must provide their own boat and equipment. Be sure to bring a lunch and water. Registration is appreciated, but not required. Rain cancels. Park map at the link below. Leader, Tom Ebersold bikehikekayak123@sbcglobal.net

From Camp Woodstock, right on Rt. 198 North for 1 mile. Left on Rt. 197 West for 1.8 miles. Right on Rt. 171 West for 0.9 miles. Right into Bigelow Hollow State Park for 1.1 miles to the launch.

Bigelow Hollow State Park Map ct.org.>stateparks>maps>big_nipm

Sunday 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Mansfield Hollow State Park - Lake Naubesatuck Approx. 16 miles/ 45 minutes from Camp Woodstock. Meet at 9:15AM at the camp to travel to launch at 10AM at the boat ramp in Mansfield Hollow State Park. We will explore coves, shoreline and three rivers feeding the reservoir, also known as Lake Naubesatuck. We will paddle approx. 10 miles, 4 hours. State law requires all paddlers to wear PFDs. Paddlers must provide their own boats and equipment. Bring food, water, sunscreen, bug spray, safety gear. Leave No Trace principles, rain cancels. Leader

will meet participants at the boat launch in Mansfield Hollow S. P. Leader, Barry Gorfain
datedfordct@gmail.com

From Camp Woodstock: Follow Rt. 198 south approx. 13 miles. Take right onto Bedlam Rd. Go approx. 1.3 miles and turn left onto South Bedlam Rd. Go approx. 1.2 miles and turn sharp right onto Bassets Bridge Rd. Go approx. 1.1 miles and turn right into boat ramp. Address: 285 Bassets Bridge Rd., Mansfield, CT.

Town of Woodstock Excursions

Saturday 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

36th Annual Roseland Cottage Fine Arts And Crafts Festival

This festival is one of the leading juried fine arts and crafts shows in New England. It features 175 local artisans and their work: jewelry, painting, printmaking, woodwork, pottery, clothing, metalwork, and much more.

Enjoy live music, a food court, and first-floor tours of the historic Roseland Cottage.

Admission \$5 Bring your bagged lunch.

Possible trip to Woodstock Apple Orchard afterwards

Leader, Barbara Beckerman

Saturday 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Walking Tour of Palmer Arboretum

Well-respected arborist and past-president of the CT Chapter, Leo Kelly, will lead you on leisurely walk through an arboretum founded in 1915 as "A Place for Education, Enjoyment and Enlightenment".

Suggestions for *Self-Directed* Explorations

Visit with Bill Reid on Friday 5:00-8:00 or ask for more details at the Activity Table in the Dining Room

Gather fellow Campers and strike out to explore the scenic roads in and around Woodstock and Pomfret CT. This area is known as 'The Quiet Corner' of CT and many of the fields, views and stone walls remain unchanged since colonial times.

Friday 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Learn about the area around Woodstock known as the ‘Last Green Valley’

Bill Reid, representing the Last Green Valley, a regional community organization, will be in the dining room to talk about the area attractions and answer your questions.

Roseland Cottage-Located 15 minutes from Camp at 556 Route169, Woodstock, CT

www.roselandcottage@historicnewenglandhomes.org

Taylor Brooke Winery -located 10 minutes from Camp at 848 Route 171, Woodstock, CT

www.taylorbrookewinery.com

Audubon Society at Pomfret- Located 25 minutes from Camp at 218 Day Road, Pomfret Center, CT. Visit 168-acre Trail Wood Sanctuary and the adjoining 700 acre Baffin Sanctuary.

www.ctaudubon.org choose Pomfret or bird sanctuary

Putnam River Trail - Approx 20 minutes from Camp. Take a 2 mile walk along the Quinebaug River, Putnam CT. Choice of 4 parking lots along Kennedy Drive. View five historic exhibits commemorating Putnam’s railroad history, textile mills and founding citizens.

Mashamoquet Brook State Park – Approx 12 miles from Camp on Rte. 44 in Pomfret. Rich with history, legend and lore, Mashamoquet Brook with its Wolf’s Den, offers hiking, picnicking, and fishing. The present park area is actually a combination of three parks: the original Mashamoquet Brook, Wolf Den and Saptree Run. The most famous feature is the Wolf Den into which, on a night in 1742, Israel Putnam crept and shot a wolf that for years had preyed upon local sheep and poultry. Near the Den are the Table Rock and Indian Chair natural stone formations. The Indian Chair is a wide seat-shaped ledge.

https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2716&q=325238&deepNav_GID=1650

James L. Goodwin State Forest– Approx 20 miles from Camp located off of Rte. 6 at 23 Potter Road in Hampton. Offers bicycling, boating, bird watching, and hiking. Today the land surrounding the Goodwin Conservation Center and Pine Acres Lake is a living display of forest practices common in Connecticut. The interpretive museum adjacent to the center explains the natural sciences of the art of forestry. The lake vicinity has become the central hiking area of the forest and a great place to observe wildlife.

https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2716&Q=437244&deepNav_GID=1650

Hikes - degrees of difficulty are defined as follows:

Easy Hike – Typically 4 miles or less in length, under 100’ elevation change, and around 2-3 hours duration. These hikes are recommended for those who may not hike on a regular basis, but would like to spend a limited amount of time interacting with the natural environment. Participants will need comfortable shoes, preferably hiking boots, and a small backpack with water and snacks. Lunch may be taken along the way. Check with the Leader.

Moderate Hike – Typically 5 miles or more in length, over 100’ elevation change, and around 3-4 hours duration. These hikes are recommended for those who hike on a regular basis, but are looking for a short hike with limited, gradual elevation change. Participants will need comfortable hiking boots, and a small backpack with first aid kit, rain gear, at least 2 liters of water, and snacks. Lunch will probably be taken along the way. Check with the Leader.

Strenuous Hike – Typically over 5 miles in length, over 200’ elevation change, and over 4 hours duration. These hikes are recommended for those that hike on a regular basis over a more rugged terrain. These hikes will involve more significant changes in elevation during the hike and may involve scrambling over rocky areas on the trail. Use of hiking poles is advised. Participants will need comfortable hiking boots, and a small backpack with first aid kit, rain gear, at least 2 liters of water, and snacks. Lunch will be taken along the way. Check with the Leader.