

The Southeast Breeze

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

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Tourist season has ended, so the Cape Hiking season resumes, including this recent outing in Bourne. *Photo by Robin McIntyre*

Bourne Town Forest/Four Ponds Hike

**By Robin McIntyre,
Cape Hikes Vice Chair**

On October 21, seven hikers enjoyed a 4.3-mile hike in the Bourne Town Forest and Four Ponds Conservation Area. The trails are rolling mountain bike hills, fire roads, and wooded pathways.

In addition to providing beautiful scenery, the area is historic: President Grover Cleveland enjoyed fishing for trout in the stocked ponds when he summured in nearby Gray Gables. A beautiful day to be in the woods!





View from the Chair: Year in Review

I hope you were able to attend the SEM Annual Meeting webinar. I had the privilege of describing all the work that has been done by the SEM Executive Committee, their committee members, and SEM's many activity leaders. We do this all for you—our members!

Although we were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions until June, our resourceful Executive Committee and leaders kept us active outdoors with long-running traditions: the Winter Series, Cape hikes, Trail Trace the Blue Hills, and other day hikes. The Trails Committee managed bridge repair and trail maintenance activities.

We became proficient with Zoom, offering evening activities and training. This allowed us to gather easily and safely. The Education, Communication, Conservation, and 20's & 30's Committees held trivia night, photo scavenger hunts, wildlife tracking, and library lectures. Prospective leaders attended online leader training sessions. Experienced leaders worked with them, resulting in nine new leaders. The Conservation Committee used Zoom to collaborate on various projects, including a conservation activity and, along with DCR and Friends of the Blue Hills, a Leave No Trace campaign.

With the lifting of the restrictions in June, we were able to see each other's smiling faces again, in larger groups without masks. More leaders returned. SEM held biking and paddling activities, as well as New Hampshire hikes for the first time since the start of the pandemic. And through all of this, the Communications Committee didn't miss a beat keeping us informed.

Read more about our year in our [SEM Annual Report](#), posted under Documents on our [website](#). 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

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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.



Hiking Chair Paul Brookes, left, leads one of our first Thursday morning hikes since the end of summer. *All photos by Éva Borsody Das*

Thursday Morning Local Hikes Back in Full Swing!

By Éva Borsody Das, Hike Leader

Fourteen enthusiastic hikers joined leader Paul Brookes (who is also Hiking Chair for our Chapter) on a sparkling Thursday morning in October for a delightful ramble through some of the lesser used trails of Wompatuck State Park. The hike started at headquarters, and we proceeded to the Aaron River reservoir for our scenic lunch break!

On this balmy autumn day, we were treated to the first bright colors of the season, and brilliant reflections in the water. Lively conversations lasted throughout the 6.5-mile trip, with the participants clearly happy to be back in the woods together after having missed most of the past year and a half due to the pandemic.



Sunlight picks out the vibrant fall colors and reflects from one of many streams, ponds, and pools of water in Wompatuck State Park.

The Thursday morning series is off to a great start this fall, thanks to the ongoing coordination of Walt Granda, with hikes being listed continuously as leaders fill in the slots on Walt's handy spreadsheet. The series can always use more leaders, and we welcome all current leaders to participate by getting in touch with Walt at wgranda27@gmail.com. It is a great way for newer leaders to get more experience, leading at their favorite local areas.

The Thursday morning hikes are generally led at a moderate pace, lasting 3-4 hours, suitable for anyone who regularly walks for several hours. It is a great way to explore the many beautiful landscapes in our Southeastern corner of Massachusetts in all seasons of the year with a lively group of fellow outdoor lovers! Come join us!



Above: Sunny knows hydration is still important on cool fall days.

Below: Light breaks through the canopy to dapple a bridge through the forest.





Share your favorite places!



Volunteer of the Month: Bill Doherty

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 SEM Board recognizes Bill Doherty.

Bill became a hike leader in April, being excellently mentored by Joanne Newton and Ken Cohen. Since then, in just six-months, he has led 14 hikes!

Bill led twelve of the Thursday evening hikes, developing routes and always getting us back before dark. Together, Bill and Joanne Newton were instrumental in keeping Trail Trace running this season. Bill also led a Thursday morning hike in October and has signed up to lead another in November. In November, Bill and Joanne will be leading the Skyline End2End hike.

One thing I appreciate about Bill is his care for the group. He consistently puts safety first: He cancelled one hike due to possible thunderstorms and, most recently, redesigned a Saturday hike in Fowl Meadow after pre-hiking it and finding the Neponset River had overflowed its banks.

One thing I look for in an amazing volunteer is someone who shows support for other committees as well as Hiking. I noticed that each week, as part of the trailhead talk, Bill reads an excerpt from one of the laminated conservation cards that the Conservation Committee developed for us.

We have a terrific group of leaders, many of whom lead multiple hikes each month. Bill stands out, however, for being a brand-new leader who came out of the gate running.

Thank you, Bill, from all of us at AMC-SEM. Bill will receive a Volunteer of the Month certificate and a \$50 gift card.



Left: Early morning in the Fall River Bioreserve.

Photo by Lisa Robitaille

Below: Lake Rico, part of Massasoit State Park, East Taunton, MA. Lots of great hiking trails, fresh air and beautiful scenery.

Photo by Nicole Robitaille





Alanna Halloran, left, Stephen Conlin, Dexter Robinson, Doug Griffiths, Maureen Kelly, & Robin Melavalin are happy to be back in “the Whites.” *Photos by Alanna Halloran*

Hiking up NH’s Mount Chocorua

By Dexter Robinson, Hike Leader

On Oct. 20 a small group led by Dexter Robinson and Maureen Kelly with Stephen Conlin as co-lead climbed Mount Chocorua in the New Hampshire White Mountains.

“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.” (Into the Mountains by Maggie Stier and Ron McAdow).

Although it has a modest 3,490 ft. elevation, Mount Chocorua is very rugged with a 360-degree summit view of the surrounding lakes, mountains, and forests. For this moderately difficult hike, the group approached from the north via the Champney Falls and Piper Trails. Total roundtrip hike was 7.6 miles with 2,250 feet of elevation gain. The last 0.6 miles of the trail was above the tree line.

According to the U.S. Forest Service website, the mountain bears the name of Sokosis Chief Chocorua who lived in the early 1700s. Stories agree that he met his tragic death on the mountain but differ as to how. Some say he fell from a high rock; others claim he was shot by white men after he uttered a curse on the valley below him.

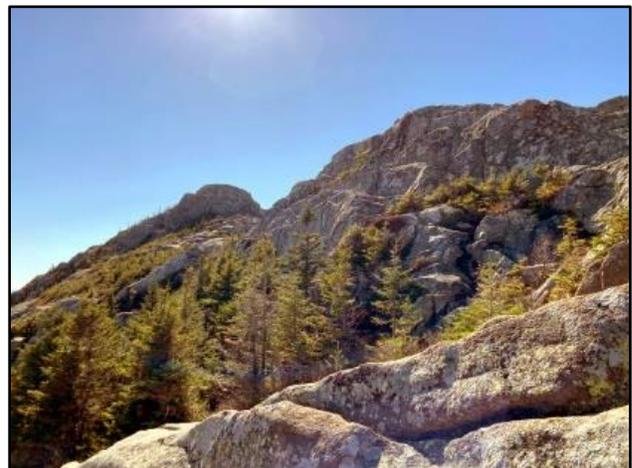
Tradition says that the first white person who ever passed through these mountains was Mother Head, who upon learning of sickness and distress in the Intervale, put on her Native American snowshoes and all alone made her way through the forest to offer her help.



Mount Chocorua’s famous summit in the shape of a pyramid, a favorite subject of artists for centuries.



A moderately difficult hike, the trail up Chocorua includes segments of level terrain and forest.



The granite summit extends above the tree line where a section of trail is visible to climbers below.



Photo by Ken Carson

Leslie Carson receives AMC-SEM's 2021 Distinguished Service Award

By Diane Simms, Chapter Chair

Congratulations to 2021 Distinguished Service Award recipient Leslie Carson!

Leslie joined the AMC in 2004 and quickly became an active hiker. She was certified as a four-season hiking leader and backpacking leader by 2007. She has led over 135 trips, including the White Mountains, Katahdin, and other summits in Maine and the Berkshires. She did it all: day trips, weekend trips, hut-to-hut treks, and backpacking adventures. On many of her trips she mentored co-leaders.

To further share her hiking know-how, Leslie regularly organized introductory workshops in hiking, backpacking, and winter hiking. These workshops focused on hard skills and appropriate gear, and they were followed by a progressive series of four trips appropriate to each

workshop. Many new participants and developing trip leaders benefited from these workshops.

Leslie also supports the broader AMC organization. She leads AMC August Camp hikes, as well Adventure Travel trips in the U.S. and internationally. (See Leslie and Robin Melavalin's Adventure Travel article in the October Breeze.) Leslie also served on the chapter executive committee as Treasurer (2009-11), Hiking Committee Vice Chair (2014-15), and Hiking Committee Chair (2016-17).

Thank you, Leslie, for everything you do!

Remembering our DSA recipients

Every year the Distinguished Service Award Committee meets to select the candidate for that year. The committee is made up of previous years' recipients listed on the [chapter website](#).



Since the contact information of some recipients was unknown, the committee reviewed the list at a recent meeting. We were informed that DSA recipients Pam Carter and John Smart were deceased. Upon doing a little research, I also found an obituary for Walter Morin (p. 8).

As best as can be determined, everyone else is still alive. A wonderful article about Carolyn Crowell appeared in the Sandwich edition of *The Enterprise*. [Here is a link](#) to it.

We'd love to hear from or about some of the past recipients who have not been active with the chapter for some time. Please email any information to chair@amcsem.org.



Sue Rollins, center front, gets an enthusiastic thumbs-up at the end of her second co-lead. *Photo by Walt Granda*

Welcome Sue Rollins as a new Class 1 Hike Leader for AMC-SEM

By Walt Granda, Hike Leader

Our chapter's new Class 1 Hike Leader, Sue Rollins, comes to us with a wealth of outdoor experience.

While living in Rhode Island, Sue became a member of the Narragansett AMC Chapter in 1996, marking this year as her 25th year as an AMC member. In the Narragansett chapter, she participated in and led a wide range of activities: northern hiking, bicycling, and skiing. She also served in the roles of Vice Chair, Archivist, and Chair of the Ski Committee.

In 2014, Sue and Larry relocated to Westport, MA, and quickly joined many Southeastern Massachusetts chapter activities. She has been on several SEM hiking/skiing trips when many of our members got to know and enjoy her company. With her desire to give back to SEM with all its dedicated leaders, Sue embarked on a personal quest to update her leading skills. She participated in a six-week AMC leadership program this past spring, in addition to the SEM leadership training in May.

For the past several months, Sue assisted Diane Simms with the Bioreserve series in Fall River and completed her first co-lead with Diane at the Bioreserve. Sue's second co-lead was in Dartmouth with me at Destruction Brook Woods. She took complete control of the hike from planning the route to screening participants and managing the group. Paul Brookes, SEM hiking chair, who attended the

hike, congratulated Sue and presented her with an AMC leader patch and first aid kit. During the hike, the participants gave her thumbs-up for an excellent hike. Everyone in the group had a great time and enjoyed the interesting trails in Dartmouth.

On a personal level, Sue and her husband, Larry, have been on a number of memorable outdoor adventures, including hiking in the Canadian Rockies, as well as a hut-to-hut Presidential traverse. Sue's personal cross-country ski trips have taken her to Quebec, Canada, as recently as 2020, and also to the Maine 100-mile wilderness hut-to-hut. Sue has enjoyed bicycling not only in New England, but also in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and the San Juan Islands.

Thanks, Sue, for an enjoyable day and for contributing your experience to AMC-SEM as a new hiking leader!



Hiking Chair Paul Brookes presents her Hike Leader patch and supply kit to Sue Rollins.

*Photo by
Walt Granda*

Suggestions for Going Greener

'Thrifiers' Save Money & the Planet

By Mo Walsh

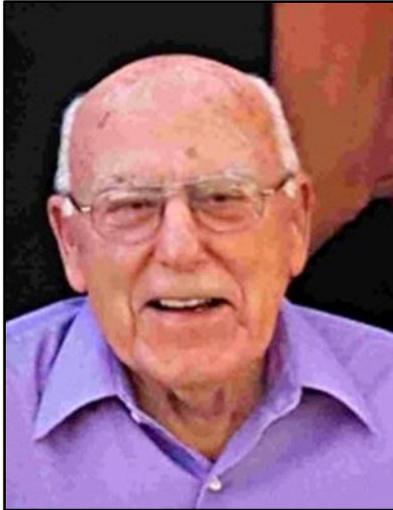
An increasingly popular way to go green is by shopping at thrift stores and online resale sites. Almost every "thrifter" has a story about an amazing find—including never-worn clothes or never-used items that were impulse purchases, unwanted gifts, overstock, etc.

By reselling or donating instead of dumping these articles, the original owners are benefitting the environment as well as thrift shoppers--and community charities that run many of these stores.. *Business Insider* estimates that 85% of textiles are trashed, a garbage truckful of clothing burned or dumped in landfills *every second*.

Thrift store shopping may require more time and persistence, but that's a small price to pay for a smaller price tag and a bigger contribution to the environment!



Rest in Peace, Walter Morin



Walter received the 2010 Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the AMC-SEM chapter.

Read his full [obituary here](#).

Walter A. Morin passed away on April 11, 2018, surrounded by his children. He was 84 years old.

Walter was the loving husband of the late Arlene (Dudevoir) of Bridgewater and is survived by their seven children, 15 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Walter received the AMC-SEM's Distinguished Service Award in 2010. The citation stated:

"Walter was a past chapter chair and hiking chair as well as an active four-season leader and participant. He was a biology instructor at Bridgewater State College, and for many years made it possible to use their facilities for SEM events. He was also a CPR instructor and a strong proponent for leader training. Walter was highly respected among leaders; he opened his home for board meetings and ran tight and efficient meetings. He was instrumental for making sure things got done for various SEM activities. He was always there when you needed him and created a sense of commitment."

He enjoyed travelling, visiting all 50 states and many countries, and spent many summers at Franstead Campground in New Hampshire and winters in Bonita Springs, Florida.

While he had many interests, his true passion in life was teaching—both in and out of the classroom. He was a professor at Bridgewater State College for 37 years, led Cub Scouts when his sons were young and never passed on an opportunity to share his knowledge. He even continued to visit his grandchildren's classrooms as a guest speaker, sharing his life experiences with a new generation.

Moonlight hikes resume at Borderland State Park

Photos by Bill Cannon

Hike Leader & Conservation Vice Chair



Above: The group gathers lakeside on Oct. 20, still Daylight Saving Time.

Left: Calm lake waters produce a "double moon" effect.

Below: Light inside and out at the Ames family mansion.





Plymouth Fire Chief Ed Bradley monitoring early prescribed burn at Myles Standish State Forest. (Source: Mass DCR)

Keeping the forest ecosystem healthy with prescribed burns

By Paul Miller, Four-Season Hike Leader

Part 2: *How state forest and wildlife managers in Massachusetts are reconciling the needs of fire-adapted natural environments with encroaching human development. Part 1 appeared in the October 2021 issue of The Breeze.*

A collaborative effort of forest management

To help address the threat of massive wildfire in the Myles Standish State Forest that could threaten the many nearby homes and businesses, Mass DCR in conjunction with MassWildlife, The Nature Conservancy, the University of Massachusetts, federal agencies, and the Plymouth and Carver Fire Departments began a program of controlled prescribed burns within the forest. This began with a small test fire in 1998.

“Planning for the prescribed burns is a collaborative effort between resource managers, fire managers, park managers, and the local fire departments,” explained Paul Celino, Chief Fire Warden at the Massachusetts DCR. “[Plymouth] Fire Chief Bradley is one of my key partners for prescribed burns at Myles Standish, where the local fire chief has jurisdiction. The Plymouth Fire Department has been great to work with to improve the public safety exposure to wildfire.”

According to Neil Foley, Deputy Fire Chief at the Plymouth Fire Department, “Our main objective for prescribed burns is to reduce the hazard of wild brushfires, making it safe for the residents and our firefighters that will be called in to extinguish a brush fire.” In recent years, Plymouth firefighters have had to deal with multiple brushfires in the State Forest, several of suspicious origin.

“The wildland interface is a complicated area, but to keep forest fires from destroying residential developments, controlled burning is the most effective process,” Foley added. “This practice has enabled us to create ‘defensible areas’ around Myles Standish State Forest from which our crews and apparatus can operate to stop a brush fire from entering a residential area.”

In Massachusetts, MassWildlife and DCR collaborate closely with other state, federal, and local entities to identify candidate areas, ensure they are performed in a safe and effective manner, and maximize the potential benefits.

“The history of prescribed burns at MSSF goes back to the late 1980s, with the first big burn taking place in 2009,” said Chief Celino. “In 2009, we were successful in getting a \$2 million Economic Recovery Act (ERA) grant in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.” The grant focused on studying prescribed burns in Myles Standish to help reduce fuel loads. To date, the largest prescribed burn in this state forest involved 110 acres.



Fire technician uses drip can during prescribed burn at Myles Standish State Forest. (Source: Mass DCR)

Continued on page 9



Prescribed burns Continued from page 8

As explained in the MassWildlife Prescribed Fire Management Handbook, prescribed burns are highly complex operations. They involve detailed planning, testing, risk and complexity analyses, assignment of roles, and crew briefings prior to operations. During and following the actual prescribed burn, the operation must comply with health, safety, and environmental (air quality, water, wetlands) mandates at the local, state, and federal levels; and detailed monitoring, data collection, and reporting. After-action reviews must then be performed to evaluate whether the prescribed burn has met the desired objectives and lessons learned captured to support continuous improvement.

Myles Standish Complex Pine Barrens Restoration Project

To help prevent wildfires and maintain the critical pine barrens habitat and ecosystem within Southeastern Massachusetts, MassWildlife and Mass DCR are jointly undertaking a multiple-year restoration project. This utilizes a combination of mechanical clearing and prescribed burns within the Myles Standish Complex, which incorporates many thousands of acres of mostly pine barrens within four public and private conservation areas.

These include the more than 12,000-acre Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth and Carver, the 185-acre Southeast Pine Barrens Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Plymouth, the 850-acre Camp Cachalot Wildlife Conservation Easement (WCE) in Plymouth, and the 576-acre Maple Springs WMA, which is mostly in Wareham.

The ten-year Myles Standish Complex Pine Barrens Restoration Project began in 2016-2017 on portions of the Pine Barrens Wildlife Management Area and Camp Cachalot, and it will continue annually in well-planned phases in selected parcels throughout the Complex over the next six or seven years.

The Future of Prescribed Burns in Myles Standish

According to the 2020 Massachusetts State Forest Action Plan, the state forests in southeastern Massachusetts (Myles Standish in Plymouth and Carver, Manuel Correllus on Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket on Nantucket Island, and Freetown-Fall River in Assonet) are at particularly high risk of fire. With this understanding, Mass DCR and other state and local agencies are planning a variety of proactive activities to reduce fuel loads and associated fire risks through a program of both mechanical clearing with heavy

equipment and seasonal prescribed burns, often in combination.

The initial mechanical clearing of trees and shrubs is frequently outsourced to external vendors via the State's established bid process. Follow-up prescribed burn activities in fire-adapted pine barrens environments are planned and performed by well-trained State and municipal fire personnel following procedures laid out in the comprehensive handbook on prescribed fires prepared by MassWildlife staff and based on nationally recognized best practices.



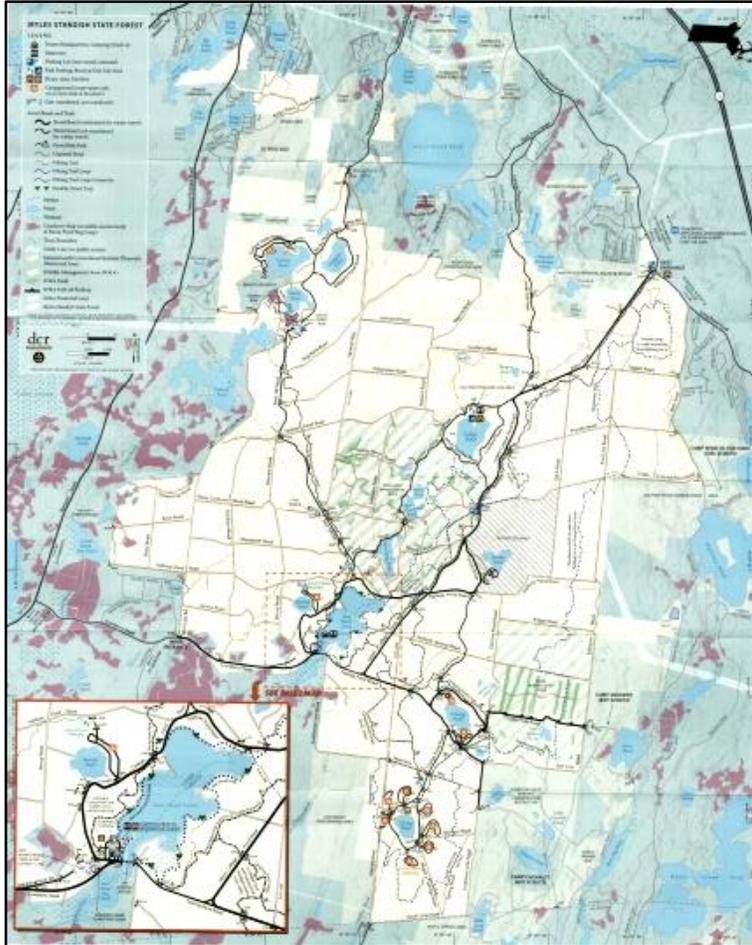
Prescribed burns have helped maintain the natural character of this large open frost bottom unit in Myles Standish State Forest. Photo by Paul Miller

According to Chief Celino, “DCR is trying to determine the science behind the scheduling of the fire regime for prescribed burns in Myles Standish State Forest.” To illustrate this point, during our meeting at the State Forest, Chief Celino drove me over to a large “frost bottom” unit in the Forest off Alden Road to show me the results of the ongoing prescribed burn program there. Frost bottoms, created when the glaciers departed, create a unique ecosystem in which a variety of plants and animals thrive. Seven-year intervals between prescribed burns here have successfully maintained this natural frost bottom environment (see photo), which is largely open space, with relatively low brush spread consistently across the bottom. “The more we burn, the more successful we get at maintaining the habitat while protecting the safety of our firefighters,” Chief Celino added.

Continued on page 11



Prescribed burns Continued from page 10



Map of Myles Standish State Forest, a 12,400-acre area in the towns of Plymouth and Carver. (Massachusetts DCR)

“Massachusetts has a rich history of wildfires, but the frequency of the major fires is so far apart that there’s a tendency to forget about the issue. We’ve had 588 forest fires in Massachusetts so far in 2021. The potential is there to have a repeat of history. We’ve experienced two drought seasons in the last four years and, in both years, we dodged the bullet in having no major fires despite the fire-conducive conditions, including both high winds and low humidity,” said Celino. “I’ve been doing this job for 15 years and been in the fire business for the last 30 years and still have nights where I can’t sleep thinking about it, particularly during those ‘red flag’ warning days with elevated fire risk.”

Nevertheless, Chief Celino expressed optimism about the future. “We’ve seen tremendous advancements in fire technology in recent years. This includes cellphone

technology for improved communications and better response technology and training. In any given year, we train between 300 and 600 local firefighters.”

As part of a recent pilot project, MassWildlife also used an unmanned aircraft system, more commonly referred to as “drone” technology, to provide high-resolution imagery to monitor habitat conditions before, during, and after prescribed fire events.

“The Division of Fish & Game has really increased its staff, helping solidify the partnership with Mass DCR. This partnership enabled us to successfully burn 200 acres of state land in 2019. DCR and MassWildlife have jointly identified 16,000 acres on state land alone that could benefit from prescribed burns. In Myles Standish State Forest, we have about 1,800 acres in line for burn plans, plus about 1,200 acres on the Vineyard.”



Looking down to New Grassy Pond through newly cleared areas in the Pine Barrens Restoration Project. Previously, this Forest was too dense to see through. Photo posted 01/30/2020 on Friends of the [MSSP Facebook page](#).

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.



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.

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

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 HIKING

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 send 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 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 our more [here](#). L Diane Simms (chair@amcsem.org) CL Alan Greenstein (nominating.com@amcsem.org)

Ongoing. Chair and Vice 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)

HIKING

Get your 100-mile patch! Contact hikingchair@amcsem.org.
Always looking for additional hike leaders! Contact hikingchair@amcsem.org

Sat., Nov. 13. Trail Trace the Blue Hills Hike, End To End, 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, wdoherly1@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)



Activities

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

HIKING

Thurs. Nov. 18, Buck Hill, 10 am-1 pm. Moderate paced 2-3-hour hike ascending Buck Hill twice and exiting via the Red Dot trail. This is a mostly wooded hike but with elevation gain. Wear sturdy hiking boots or shoes. Bring insect repellent, sunscreen, water, snacks and rain jacket (just in case). Heavy rains/thunderstorms will cancel. Group size is limited to 9 hikers plus the leader. Trail head location will be emailed to confirmed registrants. L William Doherty, Level 1 AMC Hike leader. Four season Blue Hill hiker, occasional White Mountain hiker, and Trail maintenance volunteer. [Information & Registration.](#)

Thurs. Nov. 18, Full Moon Hike at Borderland State Park, 6 pm-8:30 pm, 259 Massapoag Ave., North Easton, MA. Come and hike under a Full Beaver or Frost 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. Additional Equipment may be required under changing weather conditions. This trip is not Appropriate for pets. Because of the small Parking area we are limited to 20 participants. L William Cannon (508-649-6730 bcannon56@gmail.com), L Nancy Coote (cranstonstreet22@gmail.com), L Patricia McNally (pmcallyma@comcast.net), R: Ellen Thompson (ethompson1111@aol.com).

Sat., Nov. 20, Winter Series Hike #1, 9 am- 1 pm, Blue Hills. If you're new to winter hiking, join us for hike #1 in our Winter Hiking Series. In this progressively more challenging series, you'll have an opportunity to develop and then fine tune your winter hiking skills while discovering firsthand the fun, beauty, and camaraderie of winter hiking. Preference will be given to first time winter hikers who attended the SEM Winter Hiking Workshop. For hike #1 we will visit the Blue Hills Reservation 20 minutes south of Boston. We will begin by showing our gear and answer any questions you have about your gear. We will then do a 4-to-5-mile hilly hike in the Blue Hills at a moderate pace. Expect to be on the trail for about 4 hours. Bring your large day pack, the pack you intend to use on the next winter series hike. There may not be snow but bring snowshoes (if you've already purchased them) and traction devices as well as your winter layers. We will hike with all the gear we expect to need when we do Hike #2 which will be the Seven Sisters. L Paul Brookes. Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. 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. [Registration here.](#)

Sun., Nov. 21, Hiking the Bioreserve, 10 am-12:30 pm, Indian Town Road, Fall River, MA. Enjoy a 4-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. 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. No pets. Participants must be vaccinated or get a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of the event. L Diane Simms, Register by email to chair@amcsem.org. C-L Sue Rollins, Co-L Barry Young.

Sat., Nov. 27, 9 am-12 pm, Hike the Brockton Conservation Trails, 125 Pearl Street, 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. 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. No pets. Participants must be vaccinated or get a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of the event. L Diane Simms, R: chair@amcsem.org, L Maureen Kelly, L Natalie Halloran.

Sat., Dec. 4, Winter Hike Series #2, 8 am-1 pm, the Seven Sisters Trail in Skinner State Park, Amherst, MA. If you're new to winter hiking, join us for hike #2 in our progressively challenging Winter Hiking Series. You'll have an opportunity to develop and fine tune winter hiking skills while discovering firsthand the fun, beauty, and camaraderie of winter hiking. Preference is given to first time winter hikers who attended the SEM Winter Hiking Workshop. For hike #2 we will hike approximately 6 miles with 1100' of elevation gain. We plan to be on the trail for 4 to 5 hours. Winter clothing and gear, including snowshoes and microspikes required. We start at the Notch Visitor Center and head west climbing directly up onto the ridge. We will hike along the ridge with ups and downs to Mt. Hitchcock, on to and over the "basalt cannonballs" of the sisters to Taylor's Notch. Then depending on group speed to Mt. Holyoke. The return route will leave the ridgeline before the ascent to Mt. Hitchcock and take the Northside Trail to less travelled paths back to our cars. [Registration](#) opens Nov 20 at 3:00 pm. L Paul Brookes (PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com) Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. I am a four season hike leader for AMC-SEM and lead both local hikes and destination hikes such as to the White Mountains (I am certified in Wilderness First Aid). L George Danis (danisdad51@outlook.com)



Activities

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

HIKING

Thurs., Dec. 16, 6-8:30 pm, Full Moon Hike at Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave., No. Easton, MA. Come and hike under the Full Cold Moon or as some call it the Long Night Moon. We will be hiking about 5 miles on mainly wide flat trails between and around 2 large ponds. We see the moon about 90% of the time. even just a brief appearance is breathtaking. Sturdy Hiking Shoes are a must for the fall conditions on these sometimes wet and occasionally slippery trails. Additional equipment may be required for changing weather conditions. L/R Bill Cannon bcannon56@gmail.com, L Nancy Coote cranstonstreet22@gmail.com, L Patricia McNally pmcallyma@comcast.net. This trip is not Appropriate for pets. Because of the small parking area the hike is limited to 30 participants.

Sat., Dec. 18, SEM 2022 Snowshoe Series #1, Franconia, NH. Start off your winter snowshoeing by enjoying the scenery in Franconia Notch. We will be hiking Mount Pemigawasset via the Mount Pemi Trail and trekking through the frozen and snowy Flume Gorge. This 5.4 mile/ 1,500-foot elevation gain trip will take 5-6 hours. Snowshoes and microspikes required. Participants must be vaccinated for COVID-19 or get a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the start of the trip. L/R: Diane Hartley, 508-566-6517 (best time to call: 5 to 8 pm) dihartley@comcast.net. Diane is a four-season hiker and SEM Level 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 Anne Duggan, 508-789-5538 (best time to call: before 9 pm) Anne.Duggan. Anne has been leading hikes for the SEM Chapter since 2011. She has hiked the NH 48 4K. She especially enjoys snowshoeing and hiking in the winter! L Éva Borsody Das.

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)

*Happy
Trails!*



