



Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

Volume LI, Issue II April to June 2019 Fred Clark, Editor

Our 50th Anniversary

President's Message
Spring 2019

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club! I look forward to seeing many of you at our Section's annual dinner and meeting on Saturday, March 30 at the Grange Hall on Wallingford Road in Cheshire, Connecticut. The social hour begins at 5:00 pm with dinner starting at 6:00. The Grange will serve their traditional roast beef or vegetarian lasagna dinner with all the fixings. We expect to be joined by GMC President Tom Candon and GMC Executive Director Mike Debonis. There will be some special recognitions, gifts for everyone who attends, and a raffle for free one-year GMC memberships for any guests who are not currently members of the Club.

After dinner and the annual business meeting, adventurer and author Patricia Ellis Herr will make a presentation on her book *Up, A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure*, about hiking New Hampshire's 4000-footers and other exploits with her daughters. For a preview, you can look up the book on any online bookseller or see Trish's website at www.trishalexssage.com/.

If you haven't already registered, there's still time to join us for what is shaping up to be a great event. Contact Activities vice president Dennis Himes by email at: dennis@cookhimes.us and tell him you'd like to attend, or mail him at a check made out to CT GMC to Dennis Himes, 650 Bolton Road, Vernon, CT 06066.

Winter hiking, camping, skiing and snowshoeing have been fun this year, but I'm sure many of us welcome the return of Spring, which is a great time to get out and hike and wander in the woods. We have a number of events scheduled for April through June, including our first two maintenance weekends on the Long Trail April 26-28 (based at Story Spring Shelter) and May 10-12 (based at Kid Gore Shelter). Please check the attached schedule for the details.

See you at the Cheshire Grange Hall on March 30 and out on the trail,
Jim Robertson

Green Mountain Club Information

<http://www.greenmountainclub.org>
(802) 244-7037

Connecticut Section Information

<http://www.conngmc.com>

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INQUIRIES: Please direct all inquiries regarding the Connecticut Section to the President.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Trail Talk is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December. Activity schedules are included in each issue. Articles and activity reports must be e-mailed to the editor no later than the fifth day of the month of the publication. Article and activity reports must be sent in a Word Document in Times New Roman, font size 10. Reports sent from phones or tablets will be returned.

Editor's e-mail:

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MEMBERSHIP: When filling out an application to join or renew your membership in the Green Mountain Club, circle Connecticut Section on the application to receive, at no extra charge, the Connecticut Section's newsletter and activity schedule.

DUES:

Individual Adult	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Senior (70 or older) or Limited Income	\$25.00
Sponsor (Individual/Family)	\$75.00

Send annual dues to:

Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9904

You may also join or renew online at:

<https://www.greenmountainclub.org/>

NEW MEMBERS: The Connecticut Section welcomes these new members who recently joined:

David Farrell
Nate Parsons and Marge J. Aube
George Papagelis

We look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events.

WANT TO HELP THE CONNECTICUT SECTION REDUCE EXPENSES AND SAVE TREES? Just send an e-mail to the Editor, requesting that you be e-mailed *Trail Talk*, rather than having it mailed to you. You'll receive *Trail Talk* sooner, too.

SPECIAL THANKS to members Charlotte Hitchcock and David Wells. Each issue Charlotte facilitates the e-mailing of *Trail Talk* by reducing the file size of the attachment, and David facilitates the mailing of *Trail Talk* by stuffing envelopes and donating the postage.

ACTIVITY REPORTS



Mattabesett Trail and Bear Hill Loop December 9, 2018

A cool brisk day was the weather for this hike. Starting off Alpha Dog Molson took the lead. We walked through tunnels of Mountain Laurel; then the trail became a soft carpet of lovely golden orange beech leaves. Even though we reached several heights of land, we never found a view of Hubbard Pond. The trail was in good condition as we climbed over rocks and down rocks. Bible Rock Brook intersected the trail in several places. The brook sang to us as it moved quickly over rocks and roots along the trail.

As the trail moved in an easterly direction, we finally were able to see the Connecticut River ahead of us. After the next rock climb, we walked along the Chinese Wall. Reaching the bottom, it was quite a sight to look up and see the rock formations. We speculated as to whether anyone used these rocks for rock climbing. Since it is a distance in the woods, they are most likely spared. Up a short incline and we found the perfect lunch spot.

We then moved onto the Bear Hill Loop Trail; it had a completely different foot bed as it followed an old woods road. There were several ruts and muddy areas from the recent visits of dirt bikers.

Whoa! What is this before our eyes but a beautiful Sunshine Yellow 1977 Dodge Auto with 4 flat tires but plenty of air-conditioning. After a few pictures by Jim and Ross we moved on. Next in our view were the high-tension wires, letting us know that soon the hike would end.



A big thank you to the youngster in the group, Ross Lanius, who had a fancy trail app on his phone that let us know where we were and how long it took us to get there. Jim and Ross both agreed on the number of miles (6) for the day.

L.: Alpha Dog Molson. Hikers: Jim Robertson, Ross Lanius (photos), Sarah O'Hare and Carol A. Langley

Tri-Town Forest Preserve, No. Stonington December 15, 2018

I have to thank Bob and Mel Michaud for introducing me to this new preserve, which includes a large parcel recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy, and developed and maintained by the Avalonia Land Conservancy. Hartford Courant outdoor columnist Peter Marteka had highlighted the preserve in one of his Sunday columns, Bob researched it, and we did a scouting hike on the trails in early September 2018. The area includes many of the Native American stone works that were highlighted by Mark Starr in his presentation at our 2018 Annual Meeting.

Despite lingering cool damp weather, nine other Section members joined me and Molson the Alpha Dog for this day hike. All the expected participants except for Dick were at the meeting spot by the planned 9 am start time, so I figured that he had decided to take a pass due to the weather. About 15 minutes into our traverse of the Wapayu (Blue) loop, I received a cell phone call from Dick, looking for the preserve entrance which is in a fairly remote spot. Patty and Mandy, the most familiar with the Stonington/North Stonington area, provided him with directions and they reversed course to return to the starting point. The rest of us continued on the Blue loop which had a number of surprisingly difficult climbs and descents (for southeast CT).

As the larger group approached the first junction with the Red trail, the central corridor of the preserve, Dick, Mandy and Linda met us. We stopped for a group photo, then proceeded on to the Fenway (Yellow) Trail which climbed to the high point along several stone walls and stone works. The weather was clearing as we stopped to enjoy lunch near an old "wolf" white oak near the crest of a hill. From there it was downhill back to the Red trail and the parking lot. The Red trail included a point of interest—a rusting Chevrolet from the early 1950s—identified by George (he even said he owned one!).

Most of the crew decided to head for home, but Mel, Bob, Molson and I struck off for some bonus miles along part of the Yellow loop.

The Avalonia Land Conservancy maintains several properties in the southeast part of the state, which are described at <https://avalonialandconservancy.org/>.

Leaders: Jim Robertson and Molson. Hikers: Patty Adams, Mandy Brink, Don and Linda Hagstrom, Dick Hart, George Jackson, Bob and Mel Michaud, and Jim Moore.

Hammonasset Beach, New Year's Day January 1, 2019

A very windy day greeted us this New Year's. Temps were predicted for the 40s but the winds were gusting. No day to stand around, so six GMC hikers and one dog Thor started our hike. We had only gone a short distance when we had to turn around since the trail was under water. Returning to the starting point we walked across the beach. The waves were crashing on the shore with huge white foaming caps. What a beautiful sight! Several folks were out taking pictures.

At Middle Beach we were able to pick up the paved walkway and followed it to Meigs Beach where we stood for a moment and watched the waves. We continued to the far end where generally this time of year seals can be spotted sunning themselves on the rocks. Not today. They were hiding out of the strong currents from the wave action. There were several people with scopes and camera equipment spotting ducks riding the waves. Retracing our steps, we stopped at the new information center for a "water in and water out" break. Onto our lunch spot which is a platform just northeast of the information center. The sun was shining and the winds had died down so it was a lovely spot for lunch. Thor did not want anyone else on the platform other than the GMC hikers and he let them know. What a racket he made! Even his food and snacks did not distract him from his careful watch, protecting us from strangers.

After lunch we walked out to Willard's Island. Scanning the water and marshes there were no wildlife to be seen. When we returned to walk past the information/visitor center there was a huge group of people and television cameras for a dedication program. We did not hang around but moved on back to West Beach. Cars were bumper to bumper and the beach looked like a summer day. There had to be over 400 people out, mostly families and none of the kids that we passed were on cell phones playing games. Hooray for the parents!!!

Soon this great day was over. Another good start to the New Year!

Hikers: Dave & Karen Wells, Andy & Holly Hood, Ross Lanius & Thor, Carol A. Langley

Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge Hike January 6, 2019

This is one of those hikes that is in my own backyard but I have never been there. We deferred the hike by a day due to weather. Sunday was perfect, sunny, not too cold. It is one of five national wildlife refuges in Rhode Island with 400 acres of grassland, shrub lands, wooded swamps and freshwater ponds. It is known for its many species of birds and marine life.

Patty and I started from the western entrance. We started on the Foster Cove Trail and joined the Cross Refuge Trail. We explored all the little side trails that led us to different points on the water. It was so beautiful. At one point we were entertained by a bright red cardinal who looked brilliant among the winter gray and brown. The water was so clear and we watched school after school of minnows making their way through the water. It is flat easy hiking and before we knew we were at the Eastern entrance where we took the Charlestown Runway Trail back to complete the loop. We hiked 4.2 miles according to Patty's Fitbit. It was a delightful way to spend a Sunday morning.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Patty Adams

White Memorial Foundation January 12, 2019

It was a cloudy cold day (20 degrees) as Jim, Molson, and I started our hike. Heading south on the Yellow Lake Trail, we were able to reach the viewing platform. Scanning Bantam Lake, all was still and quiet—not a bird or duck in sight. All were nestled in their warm and cozy nests. This platform had its origins in the ice harvesting of earlier years, when people who lived here had ice boxes to keep their food. We followed the Yellow Lake Trail as it passed over remains of rails for trains that picked up the ice. Joining the Green Windmill Hill Trail, we walked along a mostly flat old dirt road until we came to the Pine Grove Campsite. Here we found two shelters, two picnic tables and one privy. What more could a camper ask for?

We then walked out to the road that leads into the Museum and main parking lot area. Part of this is also the Blue Mattatuck Trail, which we followed past the Bantam River and into a lovely grove of pine trees. A short distance into the forest, we picked up

the Black and White Little Pond Trail, which is mostly a boardwalk. Last week some of the boardwalk had been under water but today we were able to walk all of it. By this time the sun was shining brightly but held little warmth. We watched three trumpet swans take flight only to return shortly to one spot of water that was not frozen. As we started to approach the end of the boardwalk, we could hear the ice groaning and moaning. I think the warmth of the sun and water currents create this sound. If you know more about this, let us know!

Next, we moved onto the Red Pine Island Trail where we crossed a couple of plank walkways through wet areas. Crossing White's Wood Rd., we entered back into the forest. This trail connected to the Blue Mattatuck Trail and we finally reached our destination: the Beaver Hut. Last year, when Sarah O'Hare and I were here, the beaver came out and was social with us. This year we did not see him as he was warm and snug in his home. We followed another board walk just a short distance. Then a wet icy path back into the forest, reconnecting with the Mattatuck, led us to our lunch spot. Just below the grounds of the museum were two picnic tables in the sun, so we took advantage of the moment.

This lovely outdoor wildlife sanctuary consists of 4,000 acres of fields, water, woodlands and 35 miles of trails, a museum and campground. The White Memorial Foundation was created in 1913 by Alan C. White and his sister, Mary W. White. The idea of preserving the land came to Mr. White as he was fishing on Bantam Lake with his friend Mr. Van Winkle a couple of years earlier. Come out and take advantage of this lovely gem!!!

Hikers: Carol A. Langley, Jim Robertson and Molson

Barn Island Hike, Stonington February 2, 2019

Barn Island is right in my backyard, but I had only ever paddled there. I was excited to hike and check the place out. I forgot the book with the map, but I wasn't too worried because it was just a big loop. It turns out that Patty should have been the hike leader because not only did she remember to bring a map, but she hiked there often and had a good sense of the place. As it turns out, there are all kinds of trails in Barn Island. We had Patty to offer choices and Carol's keen sense of direction to tell us which way we were headed.

It was so pretty walking through the marshes. There was a combination of all stages of frozen to partially frozen water that gave it such a unique look. It was so

still. We thought we'd see maybe a little bit of bird activity but there was none, just a quiet stillness. We entered the woods and first discovered the old grave yard. The oldest gravestone that we could read was from 1796. Here we learned from Carol that most gravestones are facing the east because that is the sunny side to give the spirits a good start for the day. We decided to try and see the foundation of the home of Venture Smith that Patty had seen on a hike there years ago. We thought we were in the right area but couldn't seem to find it when we came upon two women hiking with their dogs. We asked if they knew of the Venture Smith foundation. They didn't know of that, but they knew of a foundation close by and were willing to walk us to where it was located. As it turns out it was a win for all of us. They knew of the foundation but not the history and we knew the history. While we checked out the foundation, Patty shared the story with all of us.

Venture Smith was born around 1722 in Guinea. He was the oldest son of a prince. When he was a young child his country was invaded, and he was taken captive to what is now Ghana. In 1739 he was sold to Robert Mumford who renamed him Venture. He grew up a household slave on Fishers Island. In 1754, he was sold to Thomas Stanton of Stonington. He was then sold to Oliver Smith who allowed him to purchase his freedom. He bought 26 acres on Barn Island, where he built a house and lived until later moving to East Haddam. (see more at: <http://www.haddamhistory.org/venture.htm>).

We hiked a bit further where we came upon the area called the Monument. They have boards with information to read about the ecosystems surrounding Barn Island. After checking this area out, we headed back to the cars. Certainly, this area is worth doing again, perhaps in the fall because it is known for the birds that visit this area. We hiked 5.5 miles on this wonderful, crisp, sunny winter day.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Sarah O'Hare, Carol Langley, Tom and Patty Adams with Arlo

Ritchie Smith Cabin January 25 - 27, 2019

We went up to one of Harvard University's cabins in New Hampshire. We hadn't been to this one before but we'll definitely go back. It is only two miles from North Woodstock and about a third of a mile from the road. It has a gas stove for cooking, gas lights, and is quite nice. There was the usual wood stove and plenty of split wood to keep us toasty warm.

Dick and Rob got up there Friday afternoon and started a fire in the fireplace to warm up the place. Then we joined others in town for a nice late dinner at the Woodstock Inn. When we got back to the cabin, we talked and then crashed for the night.

Mandy prepared blueberry pancakes for breakfast—delicious! Then we drove up to Cannon Mountain for the day's hike. We decided to take the Kinsman Ridge trail up the mountain. Even though it was a more direct 2-mile straight up hike, the trail had been broken in. We figured this was better than breaking trail on the longer, less steep option at Lonesome Lake. We started off in snowshoes and quickly switched over to ice stabilizers.

At tree line, the trees were frozen with snow and ice to create a magical wonderland. At the ridge, it opened to a beautiful clear view of Mt. Lafayette. From there we could see the tower up ahead on Cannon, so we tackled the last hump to arrive at the peak. We climbed the ice-covered steps on the look-out tower. There were beautiful snow-capped mountains in all directions. A fellow hiker informed us that there was a snack bar over by the ski area. Great news! We headed there for hot soup before hiking back down. What an interesting hike down. Much of it was done sliding on our butts. The steep grade allowed for some decent slides. We all turned into kids again.

Congratulations to Jim Fritz for completing his 41st peak in his quest to finish the 48 4,000-footers in New Hampshire!

At the bottom, we loaded up and headed back to the cabin. We had Jim's entree goodies, Dick's stew dinner and Mike's salad. And then came the games. Mandy had brought some games with her. First, we played a game of Smart Ass and then we played Outdoor Trivia. Good fun and lots of laughs.

Sunday morning the temp was -8 but it was quite warm in the cabin. Mike actually woke up in a sweat. Mandy prepared some French toast for breakfast. We left New Hampshire in the late morning to return home.

Leaders: Mandy Brink and Dick Hart
Hikers: Jim Fritz, Rob Valley and Mike Shaw

Spruce Peak Shelter Backpack February 2 - 3, 2019

This was a short-notice reschedule of a trip that had been postponed from January due to icy weather. For the third year in a row, we made the three-mile winter trek into Spruce Peak Shelter on the Long Trail

between Stratton and Bromley Mountains. Snowshoes were a necessity this year. Snow depths varied greatly from over two feet deep in spots down to just an ice covering over the ground, in places where the wind had scoured away the snow.

We were on the trail before 11 am in a cold west wind, with Kevin and Eric Breton leading the way, and Kevin Burke and Jim following behind. We arrived at the shelter in early afternoon, had lunch, and broke out saws and axes to start firewood collection. The previous occupants had left some, but we knew we'd need more to fuel the wood stove overnight, and a few hours collecting, sawing and splitting firewood is as great way to stay warm while using up time that would otherwise be idle (and cold). Kevin Burke was determined to slay a dead tree that had blown down across the trail some distance before the shelter – we literally had to crawl on all fours under it – so he headed back to start that work. The other Kevin went in search of downed trees closer to the shelter and Eric and Jim started sawing some dead branches and limbs that were nearby. After a while Kevin Burke returned, announcing that he had cut down the offending blowdown but that it was bigger and further back on the trail than he estimated. Kevin Breton went to help him retrieve it at the junction of the shelter side trail, and soon we were sawing and splitting enough dead wood for our weekend stay and more.

No one else joined us that evening so we had the whole shelter in which to spread out. Dinner, libations, a game of Garbage with the deck of cards that someone had kindly left in the shelter, and it was "campers' midnight", 8 pm and time to hit the bunks. We took precautions to hang our food bags but had no evidence of any visiting mice. The skies clouded up and the temperature actually rose overnight from the teens to around 20 F, but the wind continued to howl until almost dawn.

After a leisurely breakfast, we packed and snowshoed back out to Vermont Routes 11 & 30, pausing at one point to let several snowmobiles pass near the old Snow Valley ski area.

Backpackers: Kevin Breton, Eric Breton, Kevin Burke, and Jim Robertson

Annual winter trip to the Catskills, New York February 22 – 24, 2019

This year we hoped that planning the trip for late February would improve chances for a classic weekend with snow. While that didn't really happen, it turned out that there was ample snow on the trails up high. It was just that a recent 5" snowfall had

melted and refroze, so the snow off the well-trod trails was very crusty.

The crew of 14, including 6 of Mandy's kin folk/friends from PA, arrived on Friday. The food is always an important reason to drive hours to a distant place to stay in a pleasant renovated farm house with creaky floors. This year's offerings compared well with past meals: chili by Mandy/Sarah, eggs by Joe, lasagna by Kevin, and quiche by Barb along with an array of sides: baguettes, melons, cookies, muffins, fudge, bacon, yogurts, juices and Joe's homemade wine (lots on Friday).

After a Friday dinner of Mandy/Sarah's chili (veggie and non), we settled into discussions, poring over trail maps and trying to decide where to hike. Two groups organized themselves.

One group of 7 planned a traverse across the ridge on the Devil's Path that includes Westkill Mtn, expecting that it would be well packed out. Alas, only the section to the summit was packed so the 5 who didn't carry snow shoes turned back at the summit while Dennis and Joe, the more fit hikers who packed snowshoes, trod on to complete the traverse breaking trail along the ridge for a couple of miles or so. The views at the Buck Overlook into the Hunter/West Kill Mountain Wilderness were wonderful and we could see across to the fire tower at Hunter Mountain (which the other group hiked but they didn't respond to our calls from the summit of West Kill).

The other group, mostly Mandy and kin folks from PA (6), led by an eager and energetic 8-year-old, Jonah, headed up the Becker Hollow Trail toward Hunter Mountain at 4040 feet. We decided to leave our snowshoes in the car, but it wasn't long before we had to stop to put on our ice stabilizers (micro-spikes in NE). Once we started going up, it got slick and icy fast. We were so proud of Jonah, who at 8 years of age, begged his parents to be allowed to go on a winter hike. He trained at home and did great on this trip. We stopped at the ridge to check out the beautiful views at the overlook. It was a winter wonderland. The pine trees were all around us and completely covered by ice. We headed over to the fire tower and summit. We climbed as far as we could in the tower, almost the whole way up although the door was locked to get into the viewing area at the top. From the top level of the tower, we could see mountain ranges far and wide. It was beautiful. While eating lunch, Mark recognized a hiker that we had met last year when hiking on Panther Mt. It can be a small world. After lunch, we headed back down, sometimes on our butts, sometimes on our feet. Jonah made the trip with plenty of energy to spare and then

it was back to the farmhouse for snacks and relaxation.

Saturday evening for most was spent under the direction/control of the GMC's games coordinator, Mandy, playing Smart Ass and Apples to Apples, both won by Dennis – a formidable gamesman, with Adam for competition! Others spent the evening awaiting recovery from their exertions.

Sunday was a washout. Kevin and Joe, who tented outside on the grounds, showed up Sunday morning to breakfast, wet from a steady drizzle outside. After breakfast, most all headed out for distant homes, with Joe heading off to look for a hike, and Dennis and Maure heading to see the Kaaterskill Falls – Dennis posted great photos of the ice-covered falls.

Next year we will again guarantee more snow!

Hikers: from PA, it was Jon, Sarah and Jonah Conville, Mark Stone, Scott Black and Erica Ebersole, Barbara Kelly, Kevin Burke, Joe Conaci, Dennis Himes, Maure Briggs and Dick Hart.

Leaders: Mandy Brink and Jim Moore

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2019

Sun. 10 Mar.—Salmon River Trail. Meet 9:30 Rte. 16 Comstock Covered Bridge. Hike 6-7 miles. L.: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com Level: Moderate

Sat. 16 Mar.—Northwest Park. Meet 9:30 Main Entrance parking lot. Hike 5+ miles. L.: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com Level: Easy

Sun. 24 Mar.—American Legion People's Forest. Meet 10:00 Mathies Grove parking lot. Hike 5-7 miles. L.: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com Level: Easy/Moderate

Sat. 30 Mar.—Connecticut Section Annual dinner (our 50th). 5 p.m. Cheshire Grange. See page 1 for details and reservations.

APRIL 2019

Fri. 05 Apr. - Sun. 07 Apr.—Hike AT/NJ Camp Rd. - US. 206. Meet Fri. at Camp Mohican Outdoor Center. Options are to tent, or

stay in a cabin if available. Sat. & Sun. day hike. Contact Leader for further details. L.: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com Level: Easy

Sun. 14 Apr.—Day Hike. Nipmuck Trail, Yale Forest, Ashford. Route 89/Iron Mine Lane to Barlow Mill Road. Approx. 8 miles. Call for meeting time. Jim Robertson 860-633-7279 home, 860-519-8310 mobile, jrobert685@aol.com Level: Moderate.

Wed. 24 Apr. - Tue. 30 Apr.—Hike a section of the AT in VA. Plans to drive down on Wednesday afternoon and start on the trail on Thursday. My cousin is hoping to thru hike so plans are to connect and hike with him for 5 days wherever he is in VA at that time. Contact leader Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net if interested in more details. Level: Moderate.

Fri. 26 Apr. – Sun. 28 Apr.—Trail Maintenance Weekend at Story Spring Shelter. Contact: Mike Shaw, 860-381-9130 call or text, msshaw2@mail.com Level: Moderate.

Sun. 28 Apr.—Day Hike. Natchaug State Forest, Eastford/Hampton. Meet at Nathaniel Lyon Memorial Park at 10:00. We'll hike south on the Natchaug Trail, and loop back on the CCC Loop Trail. Distance: 4.7 miles. Contact: Dennis Himes, dennis@cookhimes.us, 860-335-5672. Level: Easy.

MAY 2019

Fri. 03 May - Sun. 05 May—Backpack. MA AT, Blotz Road south to Webster Road. 19 miles. L.: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com. Level: Moderate.

Fri. 10 May – Sun. 12 May—Trail Maintenance Weekend at Kid Gore Shelter. Contact: Mike Shaw, 860-381-9130 call or text, msshaw2@mail.com Level: Moderate.

Wed. 15 May—Day Hike. Nipmuck Trail, Knowlton Spur Trail, Talmadge Spur Trail and UCONN Loop, Willington. Approx. 6.5 miles. L.: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com. Level: Easy.

Sat. 18 May—Full Flower Moon. Meet at Savin Rock, West Haven-Jimmies Rest. parking. We will watch the Sunset in the west then watch the Full Moon rise in the east. Plan to have dinner at Jimmies Rest. Contact Carol A. Langley for meeting time. 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com Level: Easy

JUNE 2019

Sun. 02 Jun.—Day Hike. Macedonia Brook State Park, Kent. We'll do the blue loop, which loops along the ridges on both sides of Macedonia Brook. This includes Cobble Mountain. Meet at 10:00 at the southern trailhead, 0.7 miles from park boundary on main road, just past second bridge. Distance: 6.7 miles. Contact: Dennis Himes, dennis@cookhimes.us, 860-335-5672. Level: Mostly moderate with easy and difficult sections.

Sat. 08 Jun.—East Rock Park, West Haven. Hike 6-7 miles, great views of New Haven Harbor. Exit 6 off I-91 - State St-Park Dr. follow to Davis St. to parking lot. L.: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com Level: Easy

Sat. 15 Jun.—Day Hike. Bigelow Hollow State Park. Approx. 7-8 miles. L.: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com. Level: Moderate.

Wed. 19 Jun.—Morning Hike. Walden Preserve, Salem. A short 4 mile hike with highlights including a river, a brook, ponds, beaver lodges, meadows, tunnels of mountain laurel and an old rusted Pierce Arrow car. Sadly, dogs are not allowed. 4 miles. L.: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com. Level: Easy.

Sat. 22 Jun.—Annual Farmington River Paddle. Meet 9:00 Rte. 4 Put In. Will Paddle 10 miles to Curtiss Park. Option to take out at Sycamore Tree. Swift or low water making paddling not possible, we will hike instead. Life Jackets a must. L. Carol A. Langley 870-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com. Level: Moderate.

Sun. 30 Jun.—Mattabesett Trail & Reservoir Loop. Meet 10:00 Bear Hill Rd. Hike 5-6 miles. L.: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com Level: Easy.