

UPCOMING OCTOBER HIKES

DATE	TRAIL	DIFFICULTY LEVEL	LEADER
October 4	Audubon Society Trails	Saturday	Don Hayes and Bud Berry
October 6	Forest Bathing		Betsy Taylor
October 8	Mt. Willard	Adventure +	Don Hayes and Val McLean
October 15	Nashua River Rail Trail	Bike	Bob and Jane Heigis
October 18	Carter Hill Trail	Saturday	Don Hayes and Hal Carter
October 22	Hutchins/Ambeau Forest	Adventure	Don Hayes and Hal Carter

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER HIKE RECAPS

Riley and Snap Town Road



On a beautiful sunny Saturday, August 23, 21 hikers tackled the Riley and Snap Town Road trails by Hoit Marsh. Although a relatively short hike there was much to enjoy - from the views of Hoit Marsh to the remains of a rock enclosed ice house/root cellar, some huge old trees, and a Glacier Erratic boulder. The Hoit Marsh is owned and maintained by the NH Fish and Game Department and is a great wildlife area, especially when birds are migrating. No one seems to know why the area across from the marsh was called Snap Town but one story tells that an early settler thought that others were moving within 1/2 mile of his home and crowding him so he became "snappish." – Cyndy McLeod

Trail (1-mile round trip) to a camping shelter overlooking Smith Pond for our lunch. Again, no evidence of any wildlife on the trail or pond. Except for our own voices, it was an eerily quiet hike. Bear Brook State Park is the largest developed NH State Park (10,000 acres) with 40 miles of hiking/biking trails. A "Hidden Gem" is a very unique bear carving in an old dead tree along the campground road. According to my quick research on the internet, "The artist who carved the bear in a tree in Bear Brook State Park is not publicly named". It is very cool to see and one wonders how much longer it will exist as the tree is slowly rotting away. -Jane Heigis



Bear Brook

On August 27th eleven of us enjoyed a perfect hiking day at Bear Brook State Park in Allentown. We hiked 2.4 miles around Beaver Pond (no evidence of beavers anywhere!) on a fairly flat and wide trail. Three people had to be back to HHH early so the rest of us drove on down the road to hike Pitch Pine

Epsom Town Forest

Nineteen HHH hikers enjoyed the beauty of the Mill Pond Loop Trail in Epsom Town Forest on September 6. After examining a cellar hole near the parking lot, the group set off for the 1.9-mile hike



through deciduous and coniferous areas, on forest roads, log and root-covered trail sections, and soft evergreen needle-covered sections. The Mill Pond was partially covered in lovely lily pads and had two beaver lodges. We stopped by the pond for a rest and water break. Another cellar hole provided a place for an interesting pause toward the end of the hike. This was the first time the Club visited Epsom Forest but will not be the last. – Hal Carter

Gonic Trails

On September 10th, nine HHH hikers enjoyed 3.1 miles of the

Gonic Trails owned by Waste Management and located adjacent to the Turnkey Landfill in the Mount Isinglass Recreational Area in Rochester. There are



10 miles of trails with about half of it meandering along the Isinglass River. We found a sparkling area of pieces of mica (hence the name "Isinglass River") and some very large "turtlehead flowers" (which I've

never noticed on a hike in the past). We had to hunt for the Gonic Falls as the water level is pretty low and the "falls" are now about 4' tall at most. Back in 1730 there was a thriving enterprise with mill buildings but as the brochure states "now only the beauty of the falls remains, but could the rocks speak, they would tell quite a story." After our "adventure hike" of a fairly flat, although full of roots, trail, we decided to reward ourselves with an ice cream stop at Johnson's Dairy Bar in Northwood. I wish I had a picture of Lindley dealing with her "small cone" of at least 4 scoops piled high. We learned that the "kiddee" choice was even more than enough. Certainly, a fun hike on a beautiful day with good company. Jane Heigis

Northern Rail Trail

On a gorgeous September

17th, seven HHH bikers peddled 10 miles of the 59 miles long Northern Rail Trail. We started at the Gerrish Depot in Boscawen, originally built in 1855 and the oldest surviving depot on the former Northern Railroad. This section of the trail is beautifully groomed with hard pack gravel and pretty views of the Merrimack River. We turned around at the remnants of the 19th century railroad turntable. Historians theorize that this was the spot where the 19th century Bristol line reversed and



that the Northern Rail began just north of this spot. The Rail Trail will be extended south with Concord's recent purchase of another 5.7 miles of abandoned track. -Jane Heigis



Committee Members: Bud Berry, Hal Carter, Diane Drescher, Don Hayes, Faith Goodwin, Bob & Jane Heigis, Sandi Lee, Jim Macnab, Val McLean, Cyndy McLeod, Joyce Pope

East Concord Heritage Trails

On a brisk but sunny morning 15 HHH hikers walked the East Concord

Heritage Trails. The approach to the trails is by a gravel road leading to a field where model planes are flown. Our trail took us along the Merrimack River

beautiful piece of property where one can observe forest management activities as well as wetlands and glacial eskers. It has a well-established pollinator/wildflower garden. Additionally, it is fun to stop at a remote mailbox where one can leave a message, a trinket or a small item and/or take an item. These hiking trails perfectly suited us on this mild but unpredictable rainy day. We were lucky, we experienced perfect conditions. - Valnere McLean



and then turned to loop back. An unusual sight in the woods beside the trail is the rusted-out frame of an old vehicle, perhaps from the 30's or 40's. Before returning to our cars, most of the group walked the trail that follows an old canal which was almost dried up due to the drought. This was a perfect early fall day with beautiful weather and great company. -Faith Goodwin



Boisvert – Normand Nature Trails

Wednesday,
September 24,
2025, eleven
residents hiked

the Boisvert - Normand Nature Trails in Loudon. This is a newly conserved 79-acre parcel that is open to the public for hiking, running, snowshoeing, etc. There are 5 trails totaling 2.6 miles. This is a

