

Strafford Conservation Commission hikes and educational outreach programs for 2023 –

Look for details closer to time on the Strafford Conservation Commission Facebook page and on the Strafford Listserv.

Easter Sunday, April 9th Dee Gish and Micki Colbeck will begin hosting their “Second Sunday Hikes” at the Ashley Community Forest, at 4PM. These are social gatherings, an opportunity to hike and visit with each other. We will meet at the parking area on Nutting Road. *This hike was well attended and included some snowy terrain.*

Sunday, April 23rd - Courtney Potter will lead a wild leek - ramp walk, teaching about sustainable harvesting of *Allium tricoccum*. *Unfortunately, this hike was cancelled due to rain.*

Fri, Apr 28 at 2pm – Steve Faccio will lead a vernal pool walk in Hanover. The Howe Library is organizing this. Here’s the link: (<https://www.thehowe.org/events/events-programs/>)

Tuesday, May 2nd at 6PM, Chuck Sherman has arranged for Russell Hirschler, Executive Director of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to give a short tutorial on using Trail Finder. This will be at the Morrill Education Center and is open to the public. Our SCC meeting will follow immediately after the presentation. *More than twenty experienced and new hikers showed up for this excellent presentation.*

Friday, May 5, 1-4pm – Steve Faccio will lead a vernal pool walk at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock. *Steve said he had full crowds for his vernal pool hikes. If you missed them this year, look for them next April.*

Sunday, May 7, 1-3PM- Kate Bass and Beth Seckinger will lead a Spring ephemerals (and other flowering plants) hike along the Taylor Valley trail towards Cobb Hill. *This hike had was so beautiful and informative. Not to be missed next year!*

Sunday, May 14th-4PM - Second Sunday Ashley Forest hike with Dee Gish and Micki Colbeck. Mother’s Day winddown hike. Meet at the end of Nutting Road at the parking area.

Sunday, May 28th – Mike Hebb will lead an Orchid walk at Cobb Town Forest to see the yellow lady’s slippers orchids - *Cypripedium parviflorum*. Meet at the Town House Parking area at 10 AM or the trail head parking area at 10:15.

Saturday, June 3rd - Mike Hebb will lead a long-distance hike on our trails for National Trails Day. Meet at the Town House parking area at 7:30AM and leave car(s). Start the hike at the top of Old City Falls Road at Churchill’s gate and hike down to Justin Morrill Homestead.

Sunday, June 11th – Second Sunday Ashley Forest hike with Dee Gish and Micki Colbeck. 4PM

Sunday, June 25th- Mike Hebb, and Micki Colbeck will lead a hike at Cobb Town Forest to see the showy lady’s slipper orchids - *Cypripedium reginae*. Meet at the Town House Parking area at 10 AM or the trail head parking area at 10:15.

Sunday, July 9th – Second Sunday Ashley Forest hike with Dee Gish and Micki Colbeck. 4PM

Saturday, July 15, (rain date July 16) - Anne Fayen will lead an educational kid-friendly walk at the Strafford Pocket Park. 3Pm to 4PM

Saturday, August 5th- J.T. Erbaugh and Mike Hebb will lead the 10-mile town trail hike- a hike from one end of our town trails to the other.

Sunday, August 13th - Second Sunday Ashley Forest hike with Dee Gish and Micki Colbeck. 4PM

Sunday, September 10th – Second Sunday Ashley Forest hike with Dee Gish and Micki Colbeck. 4PM

Fall- Courtney Potter, Anne Fayen, and Kate Bass will lead a series of educational programs on invasive plants—identifying, finding, and eradicating them. They will organize a Pull-Fest workday for the community.