

Summer of 2026 hikes with the Strafford Conservation Commission

The Strafford Conservation Commission is planning another season of hikes, outdoor educational programs, and speakers. We are providing the following preliminary schedule so you can put the dates on your calendar. Details about where to park and meet and rainy weather alternate dates will follow closer to the time. We're looking forward to hiking and sharing our beautiful wild natural places with you. The SCC crew- Micki, Kate, Courtney, Mike, Joanne, Margaret, Andrei, Marty, Erin, and JT.

Dendrochronology, climate change, and finding a different path, a presentation at the Morrill and Harris Library, by Andi Lloyd, **Wednesday, April 29th, 6PM**

Vernal Pool Hike and Workshop with Kevin Tolan from Vermont Center for Ecostudies. **Saturday, May 2nd, 10 to noon.** Meeting at the Homestead parking area. A one-mile hike into some rough and wet ground. RSVP to Micki mjcolbeck@gmail.com or Kevin, ktolan@vtecostudies.org

Spring Ephemeral Hike with Kate Bass and Beth Sekinger. **Saturday, May 9th, 10 to noon.** Meet at the upper end of Taylor Valley. Fairly long hike on rugged terrain.

Invasive species Day with the Ashley Community Forest, **Saturday, May 16th.** Contact Margaretwattsromney@gmail.com for details.

Bird Walk led by Marty Frank and Kathy Thompson **Sunday, May 17th 8 am** at the Pocket Park. Should last a couple of hours. Bring binoculars.

First Orchid Walk with Mike Hebb and Micki Colbeck, **Saturday, May 30th, 10 to noon.** Meet at **9:45** at the Cobb Town Forest parking area and kiosk. We will take a wet half mile hike out the east loop to see the early blooming orchids. Yellow lady's slippers, *Cypripedium parviflorum* and the pink lady's slippers, *Cypripedium acaule*.

Fly-Fishing workshop with Andrei Kubail Kalousdian **Sunday, May 31st** at the river TBD. For all ages. Bring a fly rod if you have one. Andrei will have rods to borrow.

Nature Hike with Levi and Micki at the Cobb Town Forest, **Saturday June 13th, 10 to noon.** Meet at the kiosk near the Cobb parking area. A medium long hike into the fen to look at mosses, ferns, and flowers with two Strafford naturalists, one young, and one, young at heart.

Second Orchid Walk with Mike and Micki. **Saturday, June 27th. 10 to noon.** Meet at the kiosk near the parking area at the Cobb Town Forest. We will hike into the fen to see the showy lady's slippers. *Cypripedium reginae*.

Podunk Wilderness hike- Date TBD. Two-mile hike on old roads to the Podunk Pond and other historic attractions. Led by Mike Hebb.

Cross Town Hike with J.T. **Saturday, August 1st. 8 am to (around) 3 pm.** Meet at the kiosk at the park and ride in South Strafford at 8 am. We will ride together to the northern terminus of our town trails on Old City Falls Rd and end near the southern terminus by the Elizabeth Mines. Shorter routes are possible for those who want to end around 11 or 12 pm in Strafford Village. In the past, the Cross Town Hike has taken about 6 or 7 hours to complete. Bring a backpack with food, water, and whatever else you might need for a full day of hiking!!

Ompompanoosuc River clean-up, Saturday, August 15th. More details to come on this. We would like to walk one section of the river every year and haul out stuff that doesn't belong there. Eventually, we may be planting native willows along the banks.

Erin Yunger's River Walk, Saturday, August 29th. Come walk Erin's section of the river and learn about natural fibers, edibles, teas, beavers, and more. Details to come.

Crafting with Natural Materials with Courtney and Kate for families. Details to come.

Tree I.D. and a Walk in the Woods with a Forester with Paul Harwood, **Saturday, September 19th, 10 to noon.** Place TBD.