

2010 OUTDOOR EVENTS

The Leominster Trail Stewards, the Friends of Sholan Farms, the Leominster Recreation Department and Conservation Commission are planning hikes and trail work days for the 2010 calendar year. Additional events may be offered at various times.

COST: Free (unless noted) -*Hikers gather informally and hike at your own risk*

Cancellations: Hikes are canceled if it rains. **Please let us know if you are planning on joining us on each hike so we can notify you of any changes in the schedule.**

Please call the Recreation Department office for an update at 978-534-7529.

Please watch the local newspaper or call the Recreation Department for an update on the hiking schedule.

We recommend that hikers wear proper hiking gear; take a lunch or snack, water, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Earth Day Celebrations:

Saturday, April 17- Harness the Wind - Kite Festival at Sholan Farms (10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) Rain Date Sunday, April 18

Enjoy a fun day of learning about and flying kites at Sholan Farms. There will be kite making sessions and kite flying. Official Sponsors: Cub Scout Pack 38 of Leominster and the Friends of Sholan Farms. For more details please contact Larry Gianakis at larry@gianakis.com or info@sholanfarms.com.

Thursday, April 22- Sholan Farms (9:00 – 11:00 a.m.)

Celebrate Earth Day during school vacation with the Leominster Recreation Department and the City's Conservation Agent at Sholan Farms on Pleasant Street.

Joanne DiNardo, Environmental Inspector/Conservation Agent and Energy Initiatives, will speak about the protecting the environment and the process of growing apples. Judith Sumner, Director of Recreation, and Joanne DiNardo will lead a hike to the Fallbrook Reservoir and back while pointing out various trees species and plant life. (Pre-registration required for the free program) This program will be geared towards youth and adults.

Saturday, April 24-Trails Workshop at Barrett Park (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

The newly formed Leominster Trail Stewards are offering a trails workshop. The Stewards will provide a hands-on training for **new volunteers** on how to assess and document trail damage; the proper techniques to maintain the City trails; and demonstrating trail enhancements such as bridges, benches, and water bars.

Saturday, May 22- Petersham- Nichewag Trail (9:00 a.m.)

Participants will meet at the Barrett Park parking lot for 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the properties of the Trustees of Reservations in Petersham, MA. Dick O'Brien will lead the hike beginning at the Nichewag Trail Terminus; we will hike through the Swift River Tract to North Common Meadows. The hike will be approximately 4-hours.

Saturday, June 5- National Trails Day (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

Join the newly formed Leominster Trail Stewards to celebrate National Trails Day at Barrett Park. The group along with Boy Scout Troop 11 and Recreation Director, Judith Sumner will lead several hikes along the newly blazed trails at Barrett Park. They will also give an update on

the great work being done on the City Trails and future plans. The celebration will end with a barbeque at the Park to help raise funds for future trail projects.

Saturday, June 26- Full-Moon Hike-North Monoosnoc Overlook (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Dick O'Brien will lead the hike beginning at the Granite Street trailhead to the North Monoosnoc Overlook. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the L.H.S. flag pole entrance parking lot.

Saturday, July 24- Full-Moon Hike- South Monoosnoc Overlook (7:00 -9:00 p.m.)

Dick O'Brien will lead the hike beginning at the Granite St. trailhead to the South Monoosnoc Overlook. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the L.H.S. flag pole entrance parking lot.

Saturday, August 28- Wachusett Reservoir (9:00 a.m. – Noon)

Participants will meet at the Recreation Department Office parking lot at Barrett Park for 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the Wachusett Reservoir until noon for a hike lead by Kelley Freda. Kelley is an Environmental Analyst for Department of Environmental Conservation and Recreation and a member of the Leominster Conservation Commission. On the hike she will talk about the wildlife in the area and the history of the Wachusett Reservoir. It is a gentle walk; hikers of all ages are welcome. Please bring water, snack, sunscreen, bug repellent and binoculars. Eagles and loons are now present there.

Saturday, September 25th - Hike the entire Monoosnoc Trail -11miles

(8:00 a.m. until between noon and 1:00 p.m. depending on the pace of walkers)

This hike is being sponsored by the Leominster Trail Stewards as a fundraiser for repairs and enhancements to the trail system. Hikers are asked to secure financial sponsors for their hike and to donate the proceeds to the group for use in repairing and improving the trails. More information will be available on the Leominster Trail Stewards website and through the Recreation Department. This is your chance to see the entire Monoosnoc Trail or arrangements can be made for hiking only a section. Meet at the West Street Trailhead parking lot to carpool to Samoset School or contact Judith Sumner at 978-534-7529 to make arrangements for parking your car at another location along the trail if you can not hike the entire trail. We will trek down to Sholan Farm, to Wachusett Street, through to Elm Street, eat lunch on the South Monoosnoc Overlook (should be beautiful foliage at this time) and on to West Street. Wear proper hiking gear; take water, lunch, insect repellent and a camera and binoculars (if you have them).

Monthly Twilight Hikes (weather permitting) Sholan Farms (8:00-10:00 p.m.)

The Friends of Sholan Farms offer a series of night hikes which take place on the second Friday of each month. Gathering time is at 8:00 PM at the Farm Stand area - 1 hour hike with a 1 hour campfire (as conditions allow). Bring a friend or family members (pets on leashes are welcome) to enjoy the hike. Comfortable hiking attire is recommended, as well as a flashlight, and water. For after the hike, bring your favorite treat (hotdogs, marshmallows, etc) to share. Hot chocolate and tea will be provided by the FOSF.

The Friends are also looking for volunteers (hiking leads, trail blazers, campfire monitors, etc.) to be part of our FOSF Hiking team. If interested contact: Neal Wynne at 978-870-8560 or email neal_wynne@comcast.net.

Trail Workdays- Contact the Recreation Department for dates and times

This is an opportunity to get the trails in order for the summer. Trail work will be done in groups on particular segments of the Monoosnoc Trail. It's a lot of fun and you get some exercise. Volunteers should dress comfortable and bring water, a snack, gloves, pruning saws and loppers.