Cheshire Walkers

**Wednesday, September 5**
**Brettbooe VT: Brettbooe Retreat Trails**

Lorry and ha will kick off our first walk of the season with a jaunt on the Brettbooe Retreat Trails. These trails were originally created by the Brettbooe Retreat in the 1800’s. In 2006 and 2007, the Windham Foundation and Brettbooe Retreat worked with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) to revitalize the trails to be more environmentally sound and easier to follow. Please join us for lunch at the Marina Restaurant in Brettbooe after the walk.

**Footing:** Moderate  
**Breathing:** Easy

**Approximate Length:** 2 miles  
**Meeting Point:** We will leave at 9:00 a.m. from the Keene Department of Public Works, 350 Marlborough Street to carpool or meet us at 9:30 a.m. at the Brettbooe Retreat; the exact location to be determined (check your e-mail before the walk, or call Sylvie at 352-5454, ext. 2791 or one the Leaders).

**Leaders:** Larry Larson (603) 357-1921 and Iva Wood (603) 313 5271 (cell)

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**Wednesday, September 12**
**Gilsum: Maynard Forest**

Once one of the most plentiful trees in New England forests, the American chestnut was nearly wiped out in the early 1900s by a devastating fungal blight accidentally introduced from Asia. The blight killed an estimated 4 billion trees across the species’ range. In 2014, the Monadnock Conservancy planted a stand of 150 disease-resistant hybrid American chestnuts in its 280 acre Maynard Forest, part of a broader effort in partnership with the American Chestnut Foundation to restore the species to its former glory. Join us on this easy walk to visit the thriving young trees and learn about the restoration effort and associated research.

**Footing:** Moderate  
**Breathing:** Easy

**Approximate Length:** 1 mile  
**Meeting Point:** We will leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Keene Department of Public Works, 350 Marlborough Street, to carpool. Parking is extremely limited to a few cars and high-clearance vehicles, so please meet at the carpool location before attempting to drive to the site.

**Leader:** Ryan Owens, Executive Director, Monadnock Conservancy. (603) 357-0600 ext. 103

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**Wednesday, September 19**
**Sunny: Dort Road**

Dan Most will lead us on an easy walk down Dort Road. This is a gated Class 6 Road used for walking and cross country skiing that goes by beautiful fields and leads to the Ashuelot River. Wear comfy shoes.

**Footing:** Easy  
**Breathing:** Moderate

**Approximate Length:** 2 miles  
**Meeting Point:** We will leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Keene Department of Public Works, 350 Marlborough Street to carpool or meet us at 9:15 a.m. at the parking lot at the end of Dort Road (which is located off Rte. 12A in Sunny). Carpooling is recommended, as parking is limited.

**Leader:** Dan Most (603) 357-2877

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**Wednesday, September 26**
**Roxbury: Woodland Views**

Please join us for a leisurely walk at the beautiful Woodland Views property and learn more about the Cheshire County Pollinator Initiative which includes meadow restoration and development, monarch habitat creation, orchard restoration, invasive species management, and strategic plantings that benefit a variety of wildlife, including birds, mammals, and pollinators.

**Footing:** Moderate  
**Breathing:** Moderate

**Approximate Length:** 1 mile  
**Meeting Point:** We will leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Keene Department of Public Works, 350 Marlborough Street to carpool or meet at 9:30 a.m. at Woodland Views. Carpooling is recommended as parking is limited. Check your e-mail before the walk, or call Sylvie at 352-5454, ext. 2791 for more details.

**Leaders:** TBD

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**Wednesday, October 3**
**Swanzey: Carroll’s Hill**

The Tolman family donated a conservation easement to the Monadnock Conservancy in 2011 with the intention of keeping the land open to the public for hiking. The Swanzey Open Space Committee has worked with the Tolman family to create a trail up to the top of Carroll’s Hill, named for the late Carroll Tolman, a Swanzey farmer. This trail traverses the property’s hemlock and hardwood groves and affords views of the hilltop forests.

**Footing:** Moderate  
**Breathing:** Easy

**Approximate Length:** 1.5 miles  
**Meeting Point:** We will leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Keene Department of Public Works, 350 Marlborough Street to carpool or meet at 9:45 a.m. a at the Pitcher Mountain parking lot on Route 123.

**Leader:** Iva Wood (603) 313 5271 (cell)

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**Wednesday, October 10**
**Putney VT: Putney Mountain**

We will walk the Ridge Line Trail to the summit of Putney Mountain, from which there is a spectacular panoramic view west over the ski areas of Mt. Snow, Stratton, and Bromley to the modern wind farm in Searsburg, some 30 miles away. Mt. Monadnock dominates the eastern view. Putney Mountain is famous for its annual Fall Hawk Watch, a chance to see migrating raptors in the thousands following ridgeline winds and thermals. This is generally a moderate hike, but there are three steep sections so wear your hiking shoes and bring your trekking poles!

**Footing:** Moderate/strenuous  
**Breathing:** Moderate/strenuous

**Approximate Length:** Approximately 1.5 miles  
**Meeting Point:** We will leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Keene Department of Public Works, 350 Marlborough Street to carpool or meet us at the Putney Mountain Trailhead on Putney Mountain Road at 9:45 a.m. Directions: From center of Putney turn left onto Kimball Hill-Westminster Rd. for 1.1 miles then turn left onto West Hill Rd. Follow West Hill Road for 2.35 miles then turn right onto Putney Mountain Road. Follow this road 2.1 miles to top of mountain, trailhead is on the right.

**Leader:** Iva Wood (603) 313 5271 (cell)

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**Wednesday, October 17**
**Stoddard: Hike Up Pitcher Mountain**

Start your hike on your hiking boots and bring your trekking poles as we walk up Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard. The trail begins along the road to the fire tower and climbs quickly to an expansive view of Mount Monadnock to the south and Mount Sunapee to the north.

**Footing:** Moderate/strenuous  
**Breathing:** Easy/moderate

**Approximate Length:** 1.5 miles  
**Meeting Point:** We will leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Keene Department of Public Works, 350 Marlborough Street to carpool or meet at 9:45 a.m. a at the Pitcher Mountain parking lot on Route 123.

**Leader:** Larry Larson (603) 357-1921

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**Wednesday, October 24**
**Brettbooe VT: West River Trail**

The West River Trail begins behind the Marina Restaurant in Brettbooe, VT and runs along the river for about 13.5 miles. Along the way, we will walk through lovely open fields and under the Route 91 overpass. We will walk at our own pace for 45 minutes and then turn around to go back to our starting point. Please join us for lunch at the Marina Restaurant after the walk.

**Footing:** Easy  
**Breathing:** Easy

**Approximate Length:** 3 miles round trip  
**Meeting Point:** We will leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Keene Department of Carpooling is recommended, as parking is limited.

**Leader:** Ryan Owens, Executive Director, Monadnock Conservancy. (603) 357-0600 ext. 103
Cheshire Walkers Fall 2018 Schedule

Marlborough: Tour of Meeting House Cemetery and Nearby Historic Site—Frost Hill Road
The Marlborough Historical Society has graciously agreed to take us on a tour of gravestones and share the historic story of a few early settlers and other prominent Marlborough residents who are buried at Meeting House Cemetery. We will learn interesting facts about these people, their families and their homes. Following the cemetery walk, they will guide us to the nearby Town Pound, then the former site of the old Meeting House to learn more about early town history. Note: This will be an easy to moderate walk through the cemetery and to the nearby Town Pound and site of the original Meeting House. The cemetery is gently sloping but walkers should be aware that there is some uneven ground in the cemetery. What better way to celebrate Halloween—feel free to come dressed for the occasion!

Wednesday, November 7
Rindge: Converse Meadow
Converse Meadow features an historic pre-Revolutionary mill site and dam where flour, lumber, boxes, and shingles were produced from the 1790s to the 1830s. Though few signs of the mills remain, the property is now host to an easy 1.5-mile loop trail that follows the shore of Converse Meadow Pond and related wetlands. The Town of Rindge purchased the property in 2004 to prevent the land from being developed, and a conservation easement held by the Monadnock Conservancy further ensures Converse Meadow will remain open space in perpetuity. Join Conservancy executive director Ryan Owens to walk the trail and learn about the natural history of the site.

Footnote: Easy Breathing; Easy Approximate Length: 2.5 miles
Meet: We will leave at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Keene Department of Public Works, 350 Marlborough Street to carpool or meet us at 9:30 a.m. at the Meeting House Cemetery, Frost Hill Road, Marlborough. From Keene take Route 101 east to Marlborough, turn right onto Route 124 (Jaffrey Road) and then take first left onto Pleasant Street. Continue on up the hill to Frost Hill Road (straight ahead). Park along the road near the cemetery which will be on your left.
Leader: Marlborough Historical Society (603) 876-3980.

Wednesday, November 14
Northfield MA: Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center
Kim Noyes will lead us on another outstanding walk at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. We will walk along cross-country ski trails to a scenic overlook at the summit of Northfield Mountain with great views of the Northfield Mountain Upper Reservoir. We will return by a paved road to the Northfield Recreation and Environmental Visitor’s Center. Total elevation gain is 800 feet. Don’t worry if you think this walk might be too long or too strenuous as we will make frequent stops so that Kim can share her extensive knowledge of the area and local ecology with us. We may break into two groups before we reach the summit for those who prefer a shorter walk. Be sure to wear your hiking shoes and bring your trekking poles!

Footnote: Easy Breathing; Moderate Approximate Length: 3-4 miles
Meet: 9:00 am at the Keene Recreation Center to carpool or 9:30 am at or near the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center (99 Millers Falls Road (Route 63), Northfield, MA) the exact location to be determined (check your e-mail before the walk, or call Kim or Sylve at 362-5454, ext. 2791).
Leader: Kim Noyes, Education Coordinator, FirstLight Power, (413) 659-4462

For more information, call (603) 354-5460 or visit health-wellness.cheshiremed.org/cheshire-walkers-program

The Cheshire Walkers Program is a series of walks throughout the Monadnock region. Members walk every Wednesday in the Fall and the Spring in order to increase physical activity, foster social connection, and learn about the region’s rich history.

If you would like to subscribe (or unsubscribe) to our emails, please go to: health-wellness.cheshiremed.org/cheshire-walkers-program

All are welcome! No need to sign up, just come and enjoy.