



Wild About Lebanon

A series of outdoor events celebrating conservation and open space in Lebanon, NH

SPONSORED BY THE UPPER VALLEY LAND TRUST, THE CITY OF LEBANON CONSERVATION PROGRAM, AND THE LEBANON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Upper Valley Land Trust, the City of Lebanon and the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce are teaming up to bring back a popular program that celebrates the City's natural assets. UVLT President Jeanie McIntyre says, "Lebanon is a thriving small city with a big outdoors. 'Wild About Lebanon' puts the spotlight on what makes the City so special."

The program's roots go back fifteen years. In 2003, volunteer Nicole Cormen initiated a program of outdoor events around Lebanon, NH. Her goal was to acquaint people with Lebanon's beautiful and varied conserved public lands. She created *Wild About Lebanon* as a way to showcase the importance of open space, and make sure that all Lebanon residents had the opportunity to visit these properties and learn about the natural world right outside their doors.

Nicole Cormen's service to the City started as a Park Ranger and grew to include long stints on the Conservation Commission and the City Council. She was a tireless activist for conserved and wild land in Lebanon. She was honored as the 2015 Citizen of the Year by the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce.

McIntyre says the partners are joining to revitalize the program Cormen started, "as a tribute to Nicole's memory and also as an ongoing testament to the accomplishments a single volunteer can make in their community." Also, says, Mark Goodwin, who works in the City's Planning Department, "Nicole just loved being outdoors. We hope to spread some of that joy."

The 2018 *Wild About Lebanon* series will showcase a variety of City owned and privately owned land within the city limits. We hope to offer a wide range of activities for everyone from children to the elderly. We are also still looking for volunteers to help plan and lead events. If interested, please contact Alison Marchione at alison.marchione@uvlt.org or (603) 643-6626.

CALENDAR

March 18th:

Wild About Lebanon: Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe at Balestra

12:00-3:00pm

14 Stevens Road, Lebanon, NH

Join UVLT, the City of Lebanon, and Suellen Balestra at her conserved Lebanon Farm for a day of cross country skiing or snowshoeing and beautiful scenic vistas! When you are done skiing join us in the barn for small reception to kick off the beginning of our Wild About Lebanon Series! Snacks and hot drinks will be provided. If the snow remains on the ground we are attempting to groom at least part of the trail. (Varying distances and difficulty)

April 22nd:

Earth Day at Starr Hill

Celebrating the Spirit of Conservation and the life of Laurel Letter

3pm

The Woodlands

Join UVLT staff in a short hike from the Woodlands through Starr Hill Preserve. We will start at the Woodlands upper parking lot to the plaque dedicated to Laurel for her hard work to help UVLT buy, conserve, and give the property to the City. (1 mile, easy)

May 5th:

Bird Walk: Lebrun Meadow to Mill Road

7-9am

Ice House Road Parking Lot, Lebanon, NH

Join Jeff MacQueen (Mascoma Audubon) in a walk through several different bird habitats to spot the spring migrants! We will begin at Lebrun Meadow on Route 4 which is owned by the City of Lebanon and managed as grassland habitat. After scoping out the meadow for grassland birds we will walk the rail trail along Mascoma Lake and River, past UVLT conserved Emerson Edge Tool Mill, to look for waterfowl. Finally we will visit UVLT's Mill Road Preserve to search for forest birds. We will walk the rail trail back and return to Ice House Road parking lot. (2 Miles, Easy & Flat)

June 8th:

Hike Indian Ridge

Time: 9:30am

Trail Head Parking off Lahaye Drive

The hike will commence from the trailhead parking located “off” Lahaye Drive, almost directly adjacent the southern entrance to DHMC hospital. The group will hike the Water Tower road to the Indian Ridge trail, continue to the northern terminus, and then loop back on Joes Path and Alberts Path, to the Lahaye Drive trailhead. This trail system follows a north-south ridgeline with an approximately 500 ft change in elevation. The property contains historic stone walls, mature hardwood and softwood forest stands, as well as stream and wetland features. (1.6 mile, strenuous)

(2.5 miles, moderate to strenuous)

Co-Leader(s): Ron Bailey & Mark Goodwin, City of Lebanon Conservation Department

July 28th (July 29th rain date):

A Hike at Chambers Memorial Reserve

Time: 9am

Join Lebanon Residents Lorraine and Larry Kelly and Tinka McArdle in a walk through their neighborhood park. This hour and a half long hike will take you through pine and hemlock stands through open fields to views of the Connecticut River. Meet at the Kiosk off of Faraway Lane, please park on the south side of the road (2 mi, moderate with some steep & strenuous down/up hills)

August 25th:

Family Picnic at Jackson Conservation Area

Time: 11am

Join us at the Jackson Conservation Area for a short, family oriented hike through the conserved property, ending with a (BYO) picnic! Spread out on the grass, explore the meadow, and enjoy the sunshine. (.5 mi, easy)

September 28th:

Hike Farnum Hill

Time: 10am – 12pm

Farnum Preserve Parking Area

We will meet at the Kings Highway entrance off of Poverty Lane at 10am.

This hike is ~2.5 miles and moderate to strenuous.

Directions – Follow Poverty Lane south from the Miracle mile / Poverty Lane intersection for approximately 1 mile, with a left turn-off to the Kings Highway / Farnum Preserve parking area.

This hike features a trail system that follows a north-south trending ridge, with three distinct summits, as well as notable views afforded in all directions from numerous points along the ridge. At approximately 850 acres, the property is currently the largest of the Lebanon Conservation Lands. The Dr. W. Myric Wood, Jr. family owned this property until a transfer to the City of Lebanon in 1982. Through the persistence of the Wood family, this beautiful reserve of upland forestland will be enjoyed for generations to come. (3 miles, Strenuous)

As events are planned more information will be posted on our website calendar:

www.uvlt.org/calendar. Always check there for updates on events!

