



# Connecting Communities

## Along Our Trails 2015

IN GROTON – MAY 31



**SUNDAY  
MAY 31  
7:45 AM – 6:30 PM  
RAIN OR SHINE**

### GIFTS OF THE GLACIERS

Groton's geographic location and the impacts of the Ice Age glaciers that once covered the region have created a rich geological and biological environment that is unique in Massachusetts. About one-third of Groton is public open space with a network of over 110 miles of trails, 17 miles of the Squannacook and Nashua Rivers, plus Lost Lake and several large ponds. Attend the **Keynote Presentation** and select from the activities listed below to explore the rivers, wetlands, eskers, kames, drumlins, and kettle holes left behind by the glaciers, and learn about the history of Groton, both pre- and post-settlement. Unless otherwise indicated, activities are suitable for families with children. All activities are free except the canoeing/kayaking.

1. **Morning Mountain Bike (Advanced)** – 7:45-12:00. Challenging ride past outcrops, wetlands and many geologic features.
2. **Morning Hike (Intermediate)** – 9:00-12:00. Experience many glacial remnants hiking from Town Forest to Town Hall.
3. **Canoeing/Kayaking** – 9:30-6:30. Discounted rentals. Self-guided tours of the Nashua River.
4. **Lunchtime** – 12:00-12:30. Have a bite to eat at any of the several establishments on Main St. (Rte. 119).
5. **Groton Greenway Video** – Two showings: 12:00-12:30 and 1:30-2:00. The story of the Nashua River from its clean-up to the present.
6. **Groton Historical Society Open House** – 12:00-4:00. See artifacts and memorabilia that tell the story of Groton's history.
7. **“Gifts of the Glaciers” Keynote Presentation** – 12:30-1:30. The story of Groton's unique geology, ecology, and human history.
8. **Geology Bus Tour** – 1:45-4:00. Presentation targeted for 4th-8th graders followed by bus tour with hands-on activities.
9. **Afternoon Hikes (Intermediate)** – 1:45-5:00. **Long hike:** Gibbet Hill to Williams Barn. 1:45-3:00. **Short hike:** Town Hall to Gibbet Hill.
10. **Afternoon Mountain Bike (Beginner)** – 2:00-4:00. Easy ride along forest trails around Williams Barn.

*Note: see page two for activity details and places to meet.*

**Organizers & Contributors:** Groton Trails Committee, Groton Conservation Trust, Nashua River Watershed Association, Groton Greenway Committee, Groton Historical Society, Nashoba Paddler, LLC, Wachusett NEMBA, and Groton Sustainability Commission.

**RSVP and Contact Information:** Pre-registration is required for Geology Bus Tour ([geologytour@embedinc.com](mailto:geologytour@embedinc.com)). Other questions: Paul Funch 978-448-2813, [pgfunch@verizon.net](mailto:pgfunch@verizon.net).

**Dog Policy:** Dogs on leash are allowed only on the hikes.

Connecting Communities is offered by the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition and Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, in collaboration with trail stewards, land trusts, community leaders, historical organizations, naturalists, and volunteers, and provides free trail-inspired events.



Freedom's Way National Heritage Area  
works in partnership with  
The National Park Service

### ALONG OUR TRAILS 2015

**JUNE:** AYER/GROTON

**JULY:** LEOMINSTER

**AUGUST:** WESTFORD

**SEPTEMBER:** TEMPLETON

**OCTOBER:** BEDFORD/CARLISLE/BILLERICA

**NOVEMBER:** WINCHENDON

**DECEMBER:** HOLLIS/MILFORD, NH



## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

**Morning Mountain Bike (Advanced)** – Tour will go over technical, challenging terrain where we'll see many rock outcrops, eskers, drumlins, kettle holes, and wetlands in the northeast part of Groton. Must bring a sturdy mountain bike in good working order, plus helmet, water, and strong legs. Meet at end of Cow Pond Brook Rd. off Rte. 40.

**Morning Hike (Intermediate)** – We will first explore great examples of kettle holes, eskers, and other glacial features in the Town Forest, and then use Groton's extensive trail system to return to Town Hall. There are some small hills in the Town Forest but the trails will be mostly level. Participants must be able to walk about 2.5 miles per hour for 3 hours and should bring their own water and snacks. Meet at end of Station Ave. near Town Hall (42.6067N 71.5730W).

**Canoeing/Kayaking** – Nashoba Paddler is situated on the Nashua River where it crosses Rte. 225 (398 W. Main St.). Enjoy a 20% discount on canoe and kayak rentals on May 31 by mentioning this event. Check out their offerings at [www.nashobapaddler.com](http://www.nashobapaddler.com).

**Groton Greenway Video** – Learn how our rivers have been cleaned up and what current efforts are underway to improve and protect our "blue trails." This 15-minute video will be followed by a question and answer period with members of Groton's Greenway Committee. @Town Hall (173 Main St.), 2nd floor meeting room.

**Groton Historical Society Open House** – The newly renovated (Governor George S.) Boutwell House displays artifacts, documents, and historical memorabilia that are significant to the history and lives of the residents of Groton since 1655. Members of the GHS will be on hand to introduce visitors to the displays. @GHS's Boutwell House, across from Town Hall (173 Main St.).

**"Gifts of the Glaciers" Keynote Presentation** – Local experts Robert Pine (geology/ecology) and Michael Roberts (archeology/history) will fascinate you with their descriptions of how the glaciers bestowed an amazing landscape and abundant biodiversity on Groton and how that has affected human history in the area. You will learn about geologic features left behind by the glaciers that can be seen as you hike and bike around Groton. You will also learn how the glacial remnants and resulting biodiversity of Groton affected its use by the historic humans who lived in the area as well as the post-settlement citizens of Groton. @ Town Hall (173 Main St.), 2nd floor meeting room.

**Geology Bus Tour** – Come join us to explore the glacial history of Groton, led by Nancy Jackson, a geochemist and an experienced and inspirational educator and artist. This interactive field trip is designed for 4th to 8th grade children but all are welcome. At 1:45, there will be a short presentation in the 1st floor meeting room at Town Hall, followed by the bus tour. The bus will make several stops where we will experience glacial features in Groton and do hands-on activities. Must pre-register at [geologytour@embedinc.com](mailto:geologytour@embedinc.com).

**Afternoon Hikes (Intermediate)** – Long: This moderately strenuous hike will first go atop Gibbet Hill to take in the spectacular view. Continuing North East, we will encounter additional drumlins, farmland, eskers, beaver ponds, forest streams, and a wide assortment of trees. Meet at Williams Barn (42.6265N 71.5610W) at 1:45. A bus will take us to the trailhead. The roughly 2.5-hour hike will end back at Williams Barn. Bring water (and snacks, if desired). Short: This hike will go from Town Hall up Gibbet Hill and back.

**Afternoon Mountain Bike (Beginner)** – This will be a roughly 1.5-hour ride over smooth flowing trails that will take us by wetlands, kettle holes, and drumlins in the north central area of Groton. Bring a bike in good working order, a helmet, and water. Meet @Williams Barn, 160 Chicopee Row.