

# Mansfield Today



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## LOCAL INFO




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[Mansfield Town Council petitioned to drop effort to control unsafe parking at rental housing](#)

[Lots to do Saturday, June 5th!](#)



## Oh, the places you will go... on Connecticut Trails Days

by: Brenda Sullivan | HTNP.com Editor Friday, June 4th, 2010

Dust off your favorite hiking shoes and grab your water bottle. Connecticut Trails Days 2010 are this Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6 - part of National Trails Day.

The theme this year is "Find Your Happy Place," which shouldn't be difficult with more than 160 Trails Day events to choose from in 88 towns across the state.

Most walks are on Saturday. Following are walks within the HTNP.com readership area:

### Saturday, June 5

**Bolton Heritage Farm**, 10 a.m. to noon, 266 Bolton Center Road. Meet "Tree Preservationist of the Decade" (Yankee Magazine) arborist Matt "Twig" Largess, for a 2-mile tree walk around the farm, down to the Hop River Linear Park and back. Bolton Town Historian Hans DePold also will talk about the best-preserved Revolutionary War campsite in Connecticut and the importance of the Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R). And Conservation Commission Chair Rod Parlee will point out several interesting natural features along the route. Variable terrain with some hills. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and a beverage. No rest facilities. Parking available at Town Hall, 222 Bolton Center Road. In the event of heavy rain, hike moves to June 6 at 10 a.m.

**Colchester - Geocaching**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Day Pond State Park/Salmon River Trail. Learn about geocaching, a high-tech game of hide and seek using a handheld GPSr to find hidden treasures in the outdoors. Over 30 caches are within 2 miles of this event. (Day Pond = N 41° 33.431 W 072° 25.078) GPSr's will be available for demonstrating or borrowing. And join a potluck lunch at 1 p.m. Meet Will and Katie Veas at the Day Pond State Park Shelter. In the event of heavy rain, event moves to June 6 at 10 a.m.

**East Haddam - Sheepskin Hollow Preserve**, 10 to 11 a.m. A 1.5-mile hike with some steep sections and varied terrain of easy-to-moderate difficulty. A beaver pond is the main attraction. Participants will view beaver activity from the trail. Wear sturdy shoes. Meet Chad Peterson and Robert Estep at the trailhead at the end of Ridgebury Road in East Haddam. Sponsored by the East Haddam Land Trust ([www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org)). If you miss this walk, you can contact Chad Peterson to schedule another time: [chad2605@msn.com](mailto:chad2605@msn.com) or 860-873-1936.

**Hebron-Colchester-East Hampton - Air Line State Park Trail**, 10 a.m. to noon. Take part in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour de Trail. Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton will host activities along the trail. Walk, jog, bike or ride a horse anywhere on the 10-mile stretch that travels through the three towns. Visit three stations and receive a free T-shirt. Stations include bike maintenance, trail history, nature interpretation, land conservation, arts and crafts, viaduct history and trail safety.



The River Park in Mansfield (Storrs) is a great spot for kayaking and canoeing on the Willimantic River and is one hiking location during Connecticut Trails Day 2010. File photo © by Brenda Sullivan.

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27	28	29	30			
<a href="#">« May</a>						



ARCHIVES

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Lebanon-Columbia - Air Line State Park Trail. 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Experienced birders, Nusie Halpine and Andy Rzeznikiewicz will lead this easy hike over flat terrain. The 2-mile walk starts at the parking area on Cook Hill Road and heads south toward Route 87 in Columbia. The trail crosses the 10 Mile River, with views of the riparian niche. Bring water and binoculars. Frequent stops to look at birds. To find the trailhead, see the trail map at <http://www.lebanontownhall.org/committee.htm?id=ueh5jny7> Cancelled if there is heavy rain. Sponsored by Rails to Trails and Connecticut Audubon. Questions? Contact Nusie Halpine, [nusiandjeff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nusiandjeff@sbcglobal.net) or 860-456-1890.

Manfield (Storrs) Mansfield Hollow State Park-Nipmuck Trail. 9:15 a.m. to approximately 2:30 p.m. Join Dave Morris ([starfly209@yahoo.com](mailto:starfly209@yahoo.com)) for a brisk 9-mile hike from Puddin Lane (off Route 195 near Mansfield/Willimantic line) to Mansfield Hollow on the Blue-blazed Nipmuck Trail. Cross a variety of terrains. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and snacks. Meet at Mansfield Hollow State Park parking lot (0.9 miles north of Route 195 on Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield at 9:15 a.m. for a 9:30 a.m. departure. Polite hiking dogs on leashes allowed. Optional ice cream stop at UConn Dairy Bar following the hike. Heavy rain cancels, if in doubt call Debbie Tedford 860-373-8573.

Mansfield (Storrs) - River Park Paddle. 10 a.m. to noon. Take a cruise on the Willimantic River. An easy flatwater trip for canoes and kayaks, from River Park to Eagleville Lake with a choice of short or long (2 miles) round trip. Bring own boat or rent a kayak from Mansfield Community Center for a nominal fee. Life jackets required for all. Bring water, and lunch if you wish. Meet Larry Diamond at River Park (off Plains Road, which is off of Route 32 near the intersection with Route 44, across from daycare center). Sponsored by the Willimantic River Alliance ([willimanticriver.org](http://willimanticriver.org)) and Mansfield Parks and Recreation ([mansfieldct.org](http://mansfieldct.org)) Heavy rain cancels.

Mansfield (Storrs) - Hillside Environmental Education Park. 10 a.m. to noon. Join Jennifer Sayers and Stephanie Marks for a 2-mile hike through the Hillside Environmental Education Park near the site of the former UConn landfill. Learn about the landfill closure process and how the area was restored while exploring a variety of interesting habitats. Meet at the "C" Lot bus stop on the UConn campus. Sponsored by UConn's Office of Environmental Policy ([www.ecohusky.uconn.edu](http://www.ecohusky.uconn.edu)). Heavy rain cancels. Questions? Jennifer Sayers, [jennifer.sayers@uconn.edu](mailto:jennifer.sayers@uconn.edu) or 860-486-5773.

Stafford - West Stafford Conservation Area. 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Join Lise Hubbard and Gloria Krol on this 1-mile hike that follows easy walking trails through the West Stafford Conservation Area to discover the new arboretum trail. Different species of trees are identified in this mixed forest setting. The Stone Table Trail takes walkers past a large vernal pool. The final trail leads to beautiful Diamond Ledge Brook Waterfall. Meet at the West Stafford School by the trailhead. Rain or shine. Questions? Contact Ingrid Aarrestad, 860-684-5822.

Willington - Fenton Ruby Park & Drobney Wildlife Sanctuary/ Taylor Pond Trail. 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join leader Barbara Austin on an informative, leisurely 1-mile hike that will introduce you to some of the forest plants that possess nutritional and therapeutic value. Start from the Fenton Ruby Park parking lot (corner of Moose Meadow and Burma Roads in Willington). Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is required. Call Chris Demers at 860-429-8384.

### Sunday, June 6

East Hampton - Meshomasic State Forest/Meshomasic Mountain Loop, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join Gary Sanborn and June Valli on a 4-mile loop to the top of Meshomasic Mountain (897 feet). Pass by "the Vortex," "the Man in the Tree" and the site of a 1960s plane crash. Bring food and beverage. Meet at the commuter lot at the junction of Routes 66 and 16 in East Hampton, and we'll carpool to the trail. Sponsored by Meshomasic Hiking Club ([meshomasichikingclub.org](http://meshomasichikingclub.org)). Questions? Contact Gary Sanborn, [meshomasic@att.net](mailto:meshomasic@att.net) or 860-267-2209.

Hebron - Orienteering. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Gay City State Park. Enjoy a hike while you read a map, use a compass and find your way in the woods. Paul Pearson and NEOC members will provide instruction. There is a \$3 fee for your map. F Hebron, follow the Orienteering s Orienteering Club ([www.neoc.org](http://www.neoc.org)) and 1 p.m. e 85 in England

Mansfield - Mansfield Hollow State Park-Nipmuck Trail. The hike crosses the Fenton River over one historic bridge, and travels back on the Fenton River Trail after crossing another historic bridge. Meet leader David



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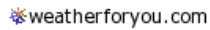
 **Tuesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi: 70F Lo: 49F

 **Wednesday**  
Rain  
Hi: 69F Lo: 55F

 **Thursday**  
Chance Of Rain  
Hi: 65F Lo: 55F

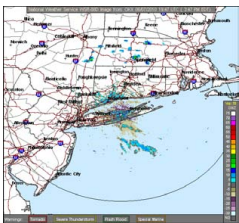
 **Friday**  
Mostly Clear  
Hi: 79F Lo: 55F

 **Saturday**  
Chance Of Showers  
Hi: 79F Lo: 59F

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### RADAR



[More Details](#)

Morris at the picnic area of the State Park (Bassetts Bridge Road, 1 mile north of Route 195 intersection). Heavy rain cancels until Sunday, June 13 at 1 pm. For more information contact Betty Robinson at pbrobinson@snet.net, or 860.429.3206.

Mansfield - Fifty-Foot Cliff Preserve Hike 2 pm to 4 pm. This 2-mile hike will be a casual walk, stopping to see the many wildflowers along the way. An opening at the top of a cliff will reveal excellent views of most of southern Storrs/Mansfield and beyond. Adventure seekers can also walk to the cliff base to observe interesting rock-dwelling plants. Meet Susan and Tom Harrington in the parking lot behind the Mansfield Historical Society museum building (Route 195, south of the UConn campus across from Altnaveigh Inn). Heavy rain cancels. For more information, contact Susan or Tom Harrington at hoopoe@sbcglobal.net, or 860.429.6257.

2010 marks the 18th year that the Connecticut Forest & Park Association has served as the American Hiking Society's state coordinator for Trails Day.

Strong participation by organizations including the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), local and regional land trusts, town agencies, outdoors-oriented businesses, numerous volunteers and sponsors is key to the success of this statewide celebration.

Connecticut has held the greatest number of events of any state in the nation every year.

To view or download the booklet, click here

<http://www.ctwoodlands.org/sites/default/files/Connecticut%20Trails%20Day%202010%20Booklet.pdf>  
(this is a large file, please be patient)

[Editor's note: this is a good brochure to keep handy for future hikes on your own or to possibly schedule a guided hike with some of the volunteers.]

*Posted June 4, 2010*

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