



June 1, 2010

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Plenty of Trails to Hit

By [Meredith Crawford](#)

Publication: TheDay.com

Published 05/28/2010 12:00 AM

Updated 05/28/2010 02:30 PM

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You have to admit, Jim Little has a point—when it comes to the great outdoors, many of us assume the grass is greener farther away from our hometown.

“Sometimes we ignore what’s around us,” says the development director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA). “We never hike the obvious; we don’t go to that place two miles from home.”

But, on the weekend of Saturday, June 5, area residents will have multiple opportunities to explore places both far and near during Connecticut Trails Day 2010 (many events are also scheduled for Sunday, June 6; see www.ctwoodlands.org, select CT Trails Day 2010, and download an electronic version of the booklet for a listing and description of activities throughout the state).

“This is a chance to rediscover the beauty of our own backyard,” says Little of the initiative, now in its 18th year.

And, with 162 events across 88 towns planned for Connecticut Trails Day (CTD)—making CTD the largest of its kind in the nation—there’s a lot of backyards from which to choose.

“Connecticut Trails Day is really unique because it’s not one single organization” that offers hikes or outdoor activities,” notes Little, “it’s multiple organizations coming together to celebrate the Connecticut landscape and to celebrate the trails that have been created over the last 80 or 100 years in order to connect people to...the landscape—that’s what this is all about.”

Part of the American Hiking Society’s National Trails Day, CTD features much more than simply hikes (though plenty of those are scheduled at locations in East Lyme, Lyme Groton, Mystic, and North Stonington). Fitness walks, paddle demos, and educational walks also abound.

For more information and to view the full Connecticut Trails Day 2010 schedule, visit www.ctwoodlands.org, select CT Trails Day, and download the electronic version of the schedule.

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New London, CT USA
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