

Sat. April 8- Sunset / Moonlight at Skyline – 6:45 PM - moonrise at 4:57, sunset at 7:24. We will hike around Trust's 65 acre Skyline Scenic Area on Stafford Rd near Somers/Stafford line. We will enjoy the sunset and beautiful view across valley towards Springfield from atop the mountain, have a snack if you would like to bring one, then return by the light of the moon. Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall, 600 Main St., Rt. 190 near the intersection of Rt. 83 and carpool to the site. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487

Sunday April 9th 10 AM Culver Pond. Explore the latest Land Trust acquisition. Culver Pond is a 118 acre parcel of land in Stafford, near the Somers town line. Culver Modisette was a past president of the Land Trust and in many ways was responsible for the success of the Land Trust. Upon his death, his estate offered his former homestead to the Land Trust at a substantial discount. We'll hike the rolling hills of the property, about four miles, approximately a two to three hour hike. Bring binoculars for spring birding opportunities near the pond and adjoining beaver ponds. Meet at the Culver Pond Land Trust parking lot on Gilbert Road, it's a gravel road. Friendly leashed dogs welcome. Call hike leader, Wes at (860) 402-2388

Sat., May 6 – Canoe and Kayak Paddle of Upper Bolton Lake in Vernon -Take a leisurely tour of this pristine lake setting, perfect for bird-watching, photo opportunities, or just a quiet morning enjoying the outdoors. Meet at the boat launch area off Hatch Hill Road at 9:00 AM. Must bring your own boat, paddles, and life vests. Call Karl at 860-649-4949 for more information

Sun. May 14 - Mother's Day hike on McCann Family Farm - 10:00 AM. Comfortable trail walk thru field and forest. Good bird-watching habitat. Mothers bring the kids – kids bring your mother! Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall, 600 Main St., Rt. 190 near the intersection of Rt. 83. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487

June 3 or 4 - Trails Weekend - 10:00 AM - We will follow blazed trails through the Land Trust's premier 200+ acre, Whitaker Woods property, featuring woodland and a cow pasture. This approximately 5 mile, one way, hike will be scenic, with bridge crossings and beautifully constructed and well preserved stone walls. There will be the opportunity to loop back to the trail head for a shorter hike. From the Land Trust property we will continue on Somers Trail Committee and Shenipsit State Forest trails to the Soapstone Mountain Lookout. There will be transportation back to the trail head. We will discuss the natural and land use history as well as local wildlife along the way. Meet behind the Somers Town Hall, 600 Main St., Rt. 190, near the intersection of Rt. 83 in the center of Somers. We will car pool to the trailhead. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487, albert_grant@sbcglobal.net.

Sat. June 10 - Hike at Ernie Boothroyd Preserve, Ellington. - 10:00 AM. The 58 acre Ernie Boothroyd Preserve was acquired by NCLT in 2010. This will be an easy 1.2 mile walk with stops to look at and discuss items of interest. Directions: From the junction of Rte. 140 and Tolland Ave. in Stafford Springs take Tolland Ave south for 1.5 miles. The Boothroyd Preserve is on the right. If coming from the south; from the Tolland Green take Old Stafford Road (becomes Tolland Turnpike) 4.8 miles north to Ernie Boothroyd Preserve on the left. For further information contact leader Richard Bailey at 860-749-0061, dweezlect3@att.net

Sat. Sept. 23 - Bald Mtn. Preserve, Somers - 10:00 AM – We will hike through two Land Trust properties as well as Town of Somers and State of CT properties. These comprise the Bald Mountain Preserve, which includes the entire summit of the tallest of the surrounding mountains. Foliage should be starting to turn. The trails are steep and rocky in some places but not difficult with good shoes. The distance will be about 2 1/2 miles. Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall, 600 Main St., Rt. 190, near the intersection of Rt. 83. For questions, contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487

Sat., Oct. 14 - The 5th Annual Talcottville Gorge/Falls and Vernon Rail Trail circular hike. Moderate effort rambling walk of 2 miles along the scenic and historic site brook and view the falls off Dobson Rd. This very popular event takes attendees on a history/geology/archeological tour of this fascinating area – a jewel in the Vernon/Talcottville area. 1:00 pm at the Talcottville Congregational Church on Elm St.

Sat. Oct. 14 - Skyline Scenic Area - 10:00 AM - Foliage hike with great views of the valley to the west. On Stafford Rd. near Somers/Stafford line. . Meet at the rear of the Somers Town Hall, 600 Main St., Rt. 190 near the intersection of Rt. 83 and carpool to the site. For questions contact Albert Grant, 860-623-5487

Sun., October 15 – Fall foliage along Railroad Brook gorge in Vernon. Hike thru the Trust's Andrew Webster Knapp property to the Rails-to-trails, then up to the ridge overlooking Valley Falls Park and Railroad Brook for some beautiful scenery. Fairly challenging walk with up and down steep slopes, 1 to 1 ½ hours. Meet at the Valley Falls parking lot off Valley Falls Road at 9:00 AM. Call Karl at 860-649-4949 for further information.