

Mt. Tom Advocacy Group

Presented by Bob Schwobe



Dates:

Saturday May 21,2011
8:30 am-4:00pm
&
Sunday May 22,2011
8:30 am-12:00pm

Pre-registration REQUIRED!

Contact:

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Volunteer Coordinator &
NET Stewardship Council
Member
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*This project has been organized in
partnership with:*



Mt.Tom State Reservation
Advocacy Group

New England National Scenic Trail Restoration Mt. Tom State Reservation Holyoke, MA

"Lend a Hand, Because it's YOUR Land!"



Join us on Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, 2011 as we continue restoration efforts on a segment of the New England National Scenic Trail* at Mt. Tom.

Reservation staff, the Appalachian Mountain Club, NET personnel and Trailwrights, Inc (a professional trail maintenance organization) will demonstrate to volunteers-and guide them through-the techniques of trail restoration.

A great opportunity to learn or update skills, meet new faces, enjoy hearty food, and help to restore this trail for future generations.

Snacks will be provided on both days;
lunch will be provided to all-day participants on Saturday.

About the New England Trail (NET)

Joshua M. Surette
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**The New England National Scenic Trail (NET) is a 220-mile hiking trail that extends from Guilford, CT at Long Island Sound to the MA/NH Border*

6.2 miles of the NET passes through Mt. Tom.

The NET is one of eleven National Scenic Trails, and was designated by federal statute in 2009.



On the weekend of May 21st, in partnership with Trailwrights, a volunteer trail building crew from New Hampshire, over 40 local volunteers made significant improvements to a severely eroded section of The New England Trail, 6.2 miles of which crosses Mt. Tom.



Some of the work involved restoring the steps that were installed by the CCC's back in the 1930's.



Volunteers have worked with DCR, to facilitate the removal of certain trees in order to reclaim the view from the tower at Goat Peak on Mt. Tom, one of the premiere Hawk watching locations on the East Coast.



Volunteers have advocated for the protection of the New England Champion Eastern Hemlock as well as other important hemlocks that are located at Mt. Tom and are under attack from an invasive insect. As a result, DCR, Forest Health Division, with assistance from the National Park Service, has treated these important trees to ensure their survival for many years to come.



On July 4, 2111, volunteers in partnership with DCR interpreters organized the 150th year anniversary celebration of the Eyrie House located on Mount Nonotuck at Mt. Tom. The Eyrie House was a prominent 19th century mountain top hotel that burned down in 1901. The hotel has a rich history. The ruins remain and volunteers conducted tours throughout the day. A horse and buggy and a donated school bus made the day a real success.







There are many rare and endangered species on Mt. Tom. This past summer, several volunteers worked with Natural Heritage, Mass Fish and Wildlife and DCR's Lakes and Ponds to control invasive plants such as pale swallowwort and water chestnut.



With help from Ellen Arnold and the Friends of Upton State Forest, we were able to bring Frank Evans out to Mt. Tom to record his oral history. Frank was a member of the CCC's and worked at Mt. Tom in the early 1940's. A video copy of the oral history has been sent to DCR's CCC archives.



This is from this past week, a Mt. Tom volunteer led a geology outing at Mt. Tom for a 7th grade class that came from Framingham.





Volunteers have re-blazed 22 miles of hiking trails at Mt. Tom during the past 2 years. This work has made the hiking experience at Mt. Tom not only safer, but also more enjoyable.



This is a very popular pedestrian bridge located on the Bray Valley Trail located at the Reservation. After 12 years of good service, it has become unsafe and needs to be replaced. With the current budgetary restraints, DCR was not in a position to replace it and the bridge was scheduled to be taken down.

Volunteers applied, and were successful in receiving a Recreational Trail Grant to replace this bridge. This coming Spring, volunteers will build a new bridge, with better materials, that will serve the public for many years to come.



Here is a picture of Commissioner Lambert at Mt. Tom this summer giving out the Recreational Trail Grant awards. We thank Commissioner Lambert for choosing Mt. Tom to hold this award ceremony.



These are examples of volunteer contributions at the Mt. Tom State Reservation in Holyoke. In cooperation with our Park Superintendent, Bob Carr, and along with many other great DCR personnel, we have accomplished a great deal in the past year and we look forward to even bigger and better things in the future.

Thank you for your time today.