



Local educators participated in CT's second Trails to Every Classroom Training. The group hiked the NET at Meriden's Giuffrida Park.

TRAILS TO EVERY CLASSROOM: This fall we partnered with the Hitchcock Center for the Environment to bring a series of field trips to the sixth grade classes in Amherst and Pelham, Massachusetts. Students learned about the geologic history of the region and hiked a portion of the NET in Skinner State Park. In Connecticut, the Farmington Alternative High School created a video called "Tales from the Trail" which tells the story about Will Warren's Den on Rattlesnake Mountain and the local flora and fauna.

TRAIL RESTORATION: Volunteer trail work days were organized this fall on the Mount Holyoke Range, which enhanced two miles of trail. More than 22 miles of new trail were established as part of the Quabbin relocation in MA. On Bluffhead in Guilford, CT, the trail was relocated to a newly purchased Town property, moving the NET to a more ideal location. Thanks to the Town this last remaining unprotected property on Bluffhead is now open space. The trail was also improved and relocated in the vicinity of Kilkenny Rock in West Hartford on MDC property. Additionally, the Connecticut State Assembly passed legislation (SB 1015) to formally support trail protection efforts on the NET.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: This year the NET created partnerships with local communities and the Five Colleges to encourage both recreation and stewardship. In Massachusetts, Southwick, has been selected as the first town in our Community Partners Program. Working with the Open Space committee and trail maintainers, we will install new signage and identify trail maintenance and trail protection needs.



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New England Trail

National Scenic Trail
Connecticut and Massachusetts



2013 Accomplishments / 2014 Goals



Caring for a New England Treasure

The 215-mile New England Trail (NET) includes portions of four largely contiguous trails: the Mattabesett, Menunkatuck and Metacomet Trails in Connecticut and parts of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail in Massachusetts. Designated as a national scenic trail in 2009, and marked with blue blazes in Connecticut and white in Massachusetts, the NET has something for everyone.

The principal trail stewards of the NET are the staff and volunteers of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA) in Connecticut and the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) in Massachusetts. They are assisted by the National Park Service (NPS) in managing, protecting, restoring and caring for this scenic New England treasure. For more information, including guides and maps, please visit www.newenglandtrail.org.

Amherst College student, Nora Gayer, blazes a short reroute at the Notch in Amherst, MA. This summer Five-College students and 245 local residents in MA and CT performed trail maintenance at 20 organized trail work days.

NEW ENGLAND TRAIL

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Total Trail
215 miles

New/Enhanced Trail
24 miles

Enjoying the Trail
More than 10,000 day hikers
and 24 thru hikers

Caring for the Trail
245 Volunteers

Giving Time to the Trail
8,776 volunteer hours

Valuing Volunteer Time
\$218,000

Community Partnerships
\$1,600,000 in support
of trail protection
and maintenance

Welcoming Hikers
44 Trail events and 20 trail
workdays; 2 Trailhead Kiosks
and 10 Trail Signs



Triptych, *View from Chauncey Peak*, 2012 Barbara Bosworth

From the Farther Edge of Beauty

As we complete the NET's fourth year and reflect on our accomplishments, there is much to celebrate. One of this year's highlights was the exhibition of Barbara Bosworth's work, *TO BE AT THE FARTHER EDGE/Photographs along the New England Trail*. These marvelous photographs were on display at nine different sites and were complemented by a lively series of exhibition-related events. This year also marked a 22-mile reroute of the NET in Massachusetts, new partnerships with local communities and the launch of our new website. We look forward to another year on the NET, *at the farther edge of beauty*.

*To navigate her coo and whisper,
To be at the farther edge
Of beauty, this forest, its lacquered raiment,
We declined to name.*

—from Peter Gizzi, *Some Values of Landscape and Weather*.

To Blaze a Trail: 2014 Goals

The goal is the best possible experience—safe, friendly, inspiring, memorable—for everyone who visits the NET. Progress toward that in 2014 will include:

- Enhancing access and navigation with a new trail mapping app
- Celebrating the opening of the “Southern Gateway” in Guilford, Connecticut
- Completing the second phase of our trail-wide signage initiative
- Expanding NET *Community Partners* and *College Outreach* programs
- Strengthening our partnerships with regional and local land trusts

Enhancing the Trail Experience

NET RIDGERUNNERS: For the second year, we had Ridgerunners on the trail in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. These trail ambassadors conducted user surveys, assisted hikers, and shared trail maps. One of our full-time Ridgerunners also collected GPS data for each section of the trail in Massachusetts to assist with our comprehensive trail inventory.

METACOMET-MONADNOCK (M-M) TRAIL REROUTE: This spring we began a 22-mile relocation of the M-M portion of the NET. A ceremony was held on National Trails Day where the state and municipal partnerships which now host the reroute were honored along with former congressman John Olver, a long-time supporter of the NET.

GRANT AWARD FOR GATEWAY TOWN: In Connecticut, CFPA received a generous grant from the Guilford Foundation to assist with the construction of a boardwalk and overlook platform at the NET's Southern Gateway at Chittenden Park on Long Island Sound. The grant, complemented by other important donations to the project, will be instrumental in developing a fully accessible trail to the Sound. An official dedication is planned for National Trails Day 2014, which also coincides with the Town of Guilford's 375th celebration.

“

We were welcomed with open arms along the NET this past June. We shared music in the towns along the trail and our days held the beautiful woods, scenic vistas, waterfalls and cliffs as their setting.”

—Raianne Richards, Mass Walking Tour



Mark Kilianski, Amy Alvey, Raianne Richards and Mark Mandeville perform a concert for the NET Trail Maintainers at the Richardson-Zlogar Cabin in Northfield, MA.



Massachusetts Ridgerunners, Yamira Vazquez and Greylin Neilson at Mt Tom in Holyoke, MA.

2014 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE: Carolina Aragón is a public artist and a Visiting Lecturer in the Landscape Studies Program at Smith College and in the Landscape Architecture Department of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Carolina creates ephemeral, temporary art installations activated by light and wind. Her hand-made work is often constructed with the help of volunteers, students and friends. She envisions focusing her project on the NET in the Holyoke region.



NEW ENGLAND TRAIL
www.newenglandtrail.org