

Fall 2019

NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN RECREATION & ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



1-800-859-2960

<http://www.firstlightpower.com/recreation>

A Healthier Watershed

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It is amazing what can be accomplished in a few hours on a Saturday morning. Last fall 179 volunteers in Eastern Franklin County gathered, hauled and sorted forty-five cubic yards of debris and two thousand pounds of scrap metal on the 22nd annual Source to Sea Cleanup. Our corner of the planet is a lot cleaner thanks to volunteers like you.

Inspired by the dedication of so many volunteers two Visitor Center staff members created a video to share best practices to help keep volunteers and our watershed healthy. Working together with the Connecticut River Conservancy and volunteers from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, the new video debuted in August. Check out https://youtu.be/qadD28gT_rU for Cleanup tips and join us on September 28th for the Connecticut River Conservancy's Source to Sea Cleanup.

Welcome Brett!

The reins of the Visitor Center passed from Bill Gabriel to Brett Young in early May. Brett is responsible for all of our recreational facilities and programs as Manager of the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. He brings to the team an outdoor recreation background, supervisory experience and knowledge of power operations. Brett willingly lends a hand where ever it is needed, whether with a chain saw, laptop or answering visitor's questions. Brett is a welcome addition to the esprit de corps at the Visitor Center.

Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center provides year-round public programming in conjunction with the Northfield Mountain pumped storage hydroelectric facility's federal licensing. Northfield Mountain is operated by FirstLight Power Resources. For more information about our programming visit our [Facebook](#) page, Instagram, or <https://www.firstlightpower.com/recreation>.



Trails and Visitor Center

Northfield Mountain's trails are superb for autumn explorations and remain open seven days a week for hiking until we get four inches of snow. Since weather conditions, muddy trails and special events sometimes cause trail closures, it's a good idea to **check current trail conditions by calling (800) 859-2960 or checking our Facebook page.**

Mountain biking:

Twenty-five miles of double-track trails and three-state views make Northfield a beautiful place to ride. A helmet and tires at least 1½ inches wide are required. **Trails are closed to mountain bikes November 4 until May 2019.**



Horseback riding:

Riders love our 25 miles of mostly wooded carriage width trails. Check in at the Center for parking and trail information. We require all riders to clean up the area around their trailers. **Trails are closed to horses November 4 until May 2019.**

Dog walking:

If you bring your dog along to enjoy the trails and recreation facilities, please make sure it remains on a leash at all times. Leashes are required by town ordinances at all facilities. We also require dog walkers to clean up after their pets.

Hunting:

Hunting is permitted on most of the Northfield Mountain trail system in accordance with Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife regulations. **Hunting is not allowed in Massachusetts on Sundays.**

DEER SEASONS:

Shotgun

December 2—December 14

Primitive Firearms

December 16—31

BLACK BEAR SEASONS:

September 3—21

November 4—23

December 2—December 14

School Programs; Environmental Education



Join us for one of many field trip opportunities offered for schools and organized groups. Our goal is to provide quality learning experiences that are educational and engaging for all learners, using the outdoors as the classroom. Programs support the recently revised Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Standards. *Beyond the Schoolyard*, designed specifically for early childhood learners, is filled with activities, creative dramatics and sensory exploration.

Woodchucks, Warblers and Whirligigs and *Incredible Insects* offer students in 1st through 3rd grade the opportunity to explore life in the field and study these amazing animals, live and up close. *Trees are Terrific* and *Seeds to Soil* explore the ecology of the forests and fall as a season of change for students in 3rd through 6th grades. Field trips are offered Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays through November 1st.

Visitor Center:

The Visitor Center is the hub of local facilities and programs owned and operated by FirstLight Power. It's the place to make reservations, pick up riverboat tickets, get information and attend many programs. The center's exhibits depict historic and modern uses of the Connecticut River. We are located on Route 63, two miles north of Route 2 in the town of Northfield (99 Millers Falls Road, Northfield, MA.) Stop by for a visit or give us a call at (800) 859-2960.

To schedule contact Kim Noyes, Education Coordinator, at (413) 659-4462 or at kim.noyes@firstlightpower.com.

Heritage Riverboat, Camping and Picnicking

The French King Gorge is one of the most scenic stretches of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts. Climb aboard the 44-seat Heritage Riverboat and enjoy a relaxing and informative journey down New England's great river. This 12-mile narrated cruise takes 1½ hours.

Riverboat Charters:

The Heritage Riverboat is available for private charters. If you are looking for a unique outing for a social occasion or family event, let us schedule a cruise through the magnificent French King Gorge. Prices begin at \$400, cruises can be scheduled to meet your needs, and we can recommend caterers for on-board snacking.

Friday Packages: Charter and Pavilion Rental, \$650.

Saturday and Sunday Packages: Charter and Pavilion Rental, \$700.

Riverboat Schedule

Departing Riverview

Picnic Area

Through October 14

Thursday through Sunday

11:00 a.m. 1:15 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

Riverboat Holidays

Open:

Columbus Day Oct. 14

Ticket Fees

Adult\$15.00

Senior (62 and older)....\$14.00

Child (14 and under)....\$8.00

Group (15 or more) ... \$13.00

School Group.....\$8.00

Reservations are strongly recommended by calling:

1-800-859-2960 or

Book Online!

www.bookeo.com/northfield

Munn's Ferry Boat Camping Area

Campers may access the campground by boat only through Columbus Day. **Reservations are required.** Munn's is open from Memorial Day weekend to Columbus Day. Camping is limited to two nights (except for three day holiday weekends). Tent sites are \$22 per night and the Adirondack shelter is \$30 per night. Potable water is not available on site.

Phone: 413 863-9300

Picnic Areas:

Looking for a beautiful picnic area on the banks of the Connecticut River? Why not try Unity Park on First Street in Turners Falls, Barton Cove Campground off Route 2 in Gill, or Riverview Picnic Area near the Northfield Mountain Visitor Center? All have picnic tables and charcoal hibachis open on a first come, first served basis. Areas are open free of charge and remain open until dusk.



Facility Rentals

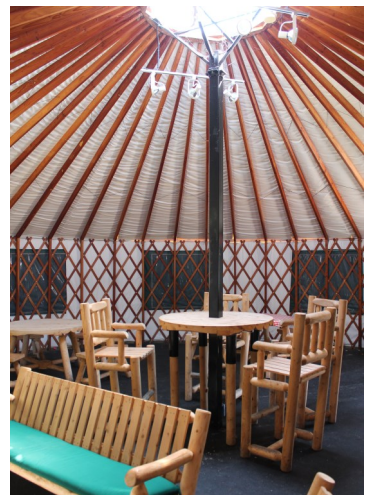
Pavilion

A lovely 70-seat pavilion is available for rental at Riverview Picnic Area, adjacent to the riverboat launch in Northfield. It's a great spot for wedding parties, company outings, and reunions with large grills, electricity and tables sheltered beneath a post-and-beam structure.

A pavilion rental and riverboat charter turn your party into a memorable occasion. Pavilion Rental Fee: \$300 plus \$150 refundable cleanup deposit.

Yurt

Looking for a unique meeting space or terrific site to hold your child's birthday celebration? Try Northfield Mountain's unusually cozy yurt. This round, canvas-covered structure, with rustic tables and chairs will hold up to 30 people. It is lighted, and has electrical outlets, as well as a pellet stove to keep guests comfortable. Rental Fee: \$100 plus \$100 refundable cleanup deposit.





Powertown History Stroll

Enjoy a walk back in time along the popular canal side bike path in Turners Falls. Join local historian Ed Gregory, Northfield Mountain’s Kim Noyes, and Massachusetts DCR’s Janel Nockleby to discover the rich and colorful industrial history along this scenic paved path. Historical maps and photographs will help bring the sights and sounds of our industrial heritage alive. Wear comfortable walking shoes and meet at the entrance of the Great Falls Discovery Center (2 Avenue A, Turners Falls). Total walking distance is no more than two

miles on flat terrain. Wheelchair accessible.

Thurs., Sept. 19; 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

For ages 16 and older

Free

Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960



Shinrin-Yoku: Forest Breathing Guided Walk

Connect with the natural world in a healing, calming, and replenishing way through a series of activities on a gentle, guided walk. Look to the wisdom of the natural world for effective ways to relax and reinvigorate yourself. Shinrin Yoku is Japanese for “Forest Bathing”, a cornerstone of preventative health care and healing in Japanese medicine with a robust

body of scientific literature on the health benefits. Join Kim Noyes, M.Ed., Education Coordinator at Northfield Mountain, for this gentle path to wellness accessible to almost everybody.

Sat., Sept. 21; 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

For ages 18 and older

Free

Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960



Fire and Ice: Richard Little Geology Cruise

Geology comes alive through the clear and often humorous stories of Richard Little. This relaxing cruise on the Connecticut River will be filled with tales of drifting continents, earthquakes, dinosaurs, glaciers, Lake Hitchcock, and the strange origin of deep riverbed holes; all are part of the creation of our idyllic Valley. Professor Emeritus of Greenfield Community College, Richard Little has published three editions of Dino-
sau
rs, Dunes, and Drifting Con-

tinents: The Geology of the Connecticut Valley and created videos about the rise and fall of glacial Lake Hitchcock and the 500 million year history of the Connecticut Valley. Professor Little continues his passion for educating about geology through “Fantastic Landscape Tours” to significant geologic areas like the US National Parks and Iceland. Don’t miss this overview of the amazing geology of our area by one of the region’s greatest geology educators. More infor-

mation about Richard Little’s tours and publications is available at www.EarthView.rocks

Sat., Sept. 21; 1:15 -2:45 p.m., or 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

For ages 10 and older

Fee: \$15 adults, \$14 seniors, \$8 children

Pre-register online at www.bookeo.com/northfield or by calling 800-859-2960

Source to Sea Cleanup; Gill-Montague and Green River Combined Efforts

Year 23 brings exciting collaboration when Franklin County lovers of clean open-space join forces at the Greenfield Swimming Area on Nash's Mill Road. After morning refreshments, small groups will head to their respective communities to do the important work of removing debris from riversides and roadways to prevent contamination of our treasured water bodies. All volunteers are invited to return to the swimming area for lunch, camaraderie and live music. Trash collected from the greater Gill – Montague area will be loaded into trucks and brought

to the Montague Transfer Station for recycling and disposal into dumpsters provided by USA Hauling & Recycling. People of all ages and abilities can join in and those with trucks can help transport trash. Weekday cleanups can also be scheduled for interested school groups. Co-sponsors include watershed-wide organizers; the Connecticut River Conservancy, FirstLight Power, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the Deerfield River Watershed Association.

Sat., Sept. 28; 9:00 a.m. - noon (cleanup) or noon - 3:00 p.m. (trash transport)

Free

Organized groups pre-register by calling 800-859-2960

Meet at Green River Swimming Area, 1 Nash's Mill Road, Greenfield, MA

Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960



The 5th Annual Great River Challenge Off-Road Triathlon

The Great River Challenge (GRC) is a non-traditional race, consisting of paddle, run and bike legs. Held on our mountain trails and scenic riverside access, this event supports health and wellness and the signature programs of the Northfield Kiwanis Foundation for area children and families. Growing each year, the GRC attracts racers and their supporters to the beautiful Upper

Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts. Short and long course options entice and challenge novice to elite athletes of all ages, participating individually or as a team. To register and learn more visit www.GreatRiverChallenge.com

Sat., Oct. 5; 9:30 a.m. race start

Register online

www.greatriverchallenge.com

Race Categories for all ages and levels



Autumn Colors and Observations; Photography Walk on the Mountain

Autumn at Northfield Mountain is rich in photographic opportunities. Capture autumn colors, nature textures and contrasts with photographer and Northfield Mountain staff member, Beth Pelton. Bring your camera, a light weight tripod and one or two lenses. The group's focus will be on learning to pay attention, reading the light and sharing in the observations of other group members to create better photos. Bring a water bottle and snack to take on the trail. Beth

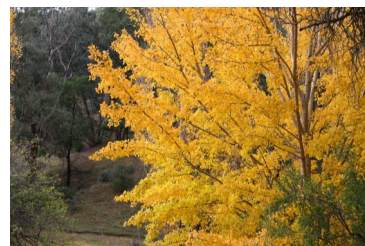
Pelton, is a professional freelance and landscape photographer whose photographs regularly appear in *Monadnock Table* and *At Home* magazine. Her work has been exhibited around New England, selected in juried shows, and won an award of excellence for the Mohawk Trail 100th Anniversary Juried Exhibit. You can find her work at www.eightcattailsimagery.com.

Sat., Oct. 12; 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

For ages 12 and older

Free

Register by calling 800-859-2960





Tree ID Using Bark and Habitat Clues

Join naturalist Nancy Goodman and take a close look at trees and other botanical wonders. Have you ever looked at a tree and wondered what it might be? For more than half the year, bark provides the best clue to tree identification. We will be keying out some of the trees to see what we can learn. Become familiar with the characteristic bark of different trees in different habitats and at different stages of growth, as well as iden-

tification from leaves and other clues. Bring binoculars, water, a trail snack, sturdy walking shoes and the book *Bark* by Michael Wojtech, if you have a copy. This program is co-sponsored with the Athol Bird and Nature Club and will take place at Northfield's scenic Riverview Picnic Area along the Connecticut River. This location has an especially rich variety of tree species. Meet in the Riverview parking area at 10 a.m.

(intersection of Pine Meadow and Ferry Road, 100 Ferry Road, Northfield)

Sat., Oct. 19; 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Free

Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960



Bats in the Bay State

Get into the Halloween spirit as the Northfield Bird Club explores a different kind of flying fauna - BATS! Ecologist Zara Dowling will lead us into the dark world of bats and introduce us to our local bat neighbors, many of whose haunts and habits are still largely unknown. We'll learn how new technology and research are offering insight into the behavior of these mysterious creatures, and helping us better

understand the threats they face. Zara is an Ecologist with a PhD in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she studied the effects of offshore wind energy development on bats. She is currently a Research Fellow with UMass Clean Energy Extension, where she works on a variety of projects related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environ-

mental conservation. This program is co-sponsored with the Northfield Bird Club and the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

Tues, Oct. 22; 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Suitable for adults and teens

Free

No registration required



Project Wild and Climate Change

Project WILD and Aquatic WILD are award-winning wildlife oriented curriculum guides for educators of students in grades K-12. This workshop will provide background material as well as several activities in both the WILD and Aquatic WILD guides. Through a variety of fun and engaging activities, we'll learn about our native wildlife and discuss how some species may be impacted by climate change. We'll also discuss some climate-friendly actions we can take and model as youth leaders. This interdisciplinary profession-

al development workshop is great for classroom teachers, scout leaders, camp counselors and other educators. Participants will receive both curriculum guides as well as credit that can be used towards PDPs. Join instructors, Patti Steinman, Education Coordinator, Mass Audubon's Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries and Kim Noyes, Northfield Mountain's Education Coordinator, for a fun-filled day of interactive, hands-on activities

Sat., Nov. 2; 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton, MA

For K - 12 Educators

Fee: \$40, includes Activity Guides

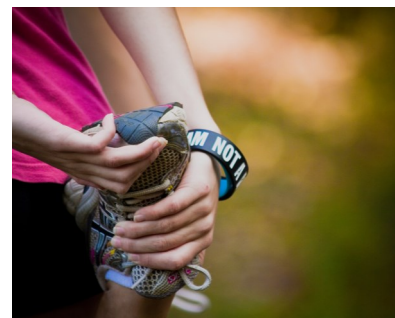
Pre-registration is required by calling 413-584-3009 or online at www.massaudubon.org/program-catalog/arcadia

Western Massachusetts High School Cross Country

Come watch the top Western Massachusetts high school cross country runners compete for a place at the State Championships. This championship includes over 35 teams from Divisions I and II. All races are run on a 3.1 mile course with great spectator viewing.

Sat., Nov. 9;

Start times: 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., Noon, 12:30 p.m.



Wildlife and the November Woods; Family Outdoor Fun

Late fall is a wonderful time to explore the forest, the changing seasons and search for wildlife sign. Join us for a child-friendly guided hike with hands-on games and activities. Skulls, scavenger hunts and more will help children and adults explore and learn about wildlife and the November woods. Taught by Kathy Richards, an environmental educator with over twenty years of experience, this program is geared to-

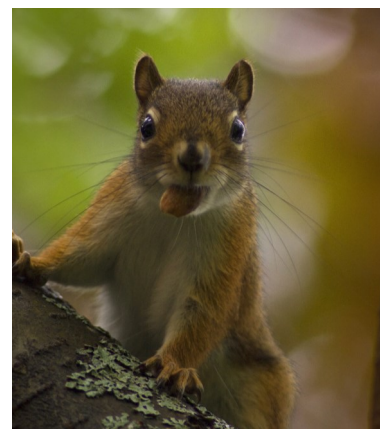
wards families with children ages 5 – 12, although all ages are welcome!

Mon., Nov. 11; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

For ages 5 and older and an accompanying adult

Free

Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960



From Milk Jugs to Benches: America Recycles Day Tour

Celebrate and learn more about America Recycles Day! What happens to the bottles, cans, and paper that we put in the recycling bin? What are the successes and challenges of converting our recycled materials to useable products? How can we get more involved in enhancing and sustaining recycling in our region? Join the Connecticut River Conservancy, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center for this free field trip and tour of the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF).

www.springfieldmrf.org The MRF is a cornerstone of recycling efforts in Western Massachusetts, receiving materials from 73 communities, totaling 24,000 tons/year! Registration required.

Thur., Nov. 14; 10:30 a.m. - noon

For anyone age 6 and older

Free

Pre-registration is required online
<https://recycling-tour.eventbrite.com>.





Birds at your Feeder

Join Kim Noyes and the Northfield Bird Club for an illustrated introduction to winter bird feeding. This indoor program will focus on how to identify birds at your feeder, interesting behavior to look for, where to locate feeders and which types of seeds attract which birds. This program takes place at the Dickinson Memorial Library (115 Main Street, Northfield, MA) and is most appropriate for adults and

teens, although children ages 8 and older are welcome.

Sat., Nov. 16; 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Free

No pre-registration required

Location: Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield, MA

The Fabulous Winter Crow Roost



Bob and Dana Fox will share their research on the fabulous winter crow roost. Last winter there were as many as 27,000 crows roosting in Lawrence, MA every night. Dana and Bob observed their staging (gathering an hour before sunset) and roosting (a half hour after sunset) a hundred nights during the 2017-2018 winter! Why do crows do this? Where do they go during the day? What are the patterns observed each winter? Join us to see amazing photographs, learn about this highly intelligent

bird and their unusual roosting phenomena. You will want to go out and find your own crow roost when they finish! Visit their blog WWW.wintercrowroost.com Co-sponsored with the Northfield Bird Club.

Tues., Dec. 10; 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Free

Suitable for Adults and Teens

No pre-registration required

Special Day in Northfield

The town of Northfield's "Special Day" celebrates its 14th year with old-fashioned holiday fun for all ages from 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Travel around the beautiful, historic town in true New England style with free horse-drawn hayrides and enjoy musical performances, crafts and local shopping. Visit Northfield Mountain staff to create your own nature-themed holiday gift at one of the downtown venues. Specific location and time will be shared via our Facebook page or

by calling (800) 859-2960 closer to the event. A community bonfire, caroling, delicious snacks, history, art and more all round out this Special Day in Northfield.

Sat., Dec. 14

Free

For ages 4 and older

No pre-registration required

Northfield Mountain
Recreation and
Environmental Center
99 Millers Falls Road
Northfield, MA 01360

