

**Announcing “Groton’s Hidden Treasures”  
as part of Freedom’s Way “Hidden Treasures 2016”**

#####

**Freedom's Way** connects the people, places and communities of the Heritage Area through preservation, conservation and educational initiatives to protect and promote our shared resources and to encourage residents and visitors to explore our landscape, history and culture. The Freedom’s Way Heritage Association works in partnership with the National Park Service to support the **Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area** in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

**Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area** together with over sixty partners from the 45 towns and cities within its bounds announce Hidden Treasures 2016, a nine-day regional celebration. Beginning **Saturday, May 14th through Sunday, May 22nd**, communities across the 994 square mile Freedom’s Way area, home to over 750,000 people, will offer free public programs featuring one or more “hidden treasures” in their town.

From nature hikes and museum open houses to urban walking tours and art events, **Hidden Treasures 2016** offers a diversity of activities that highlight the many cultural, historical and natural treasures of our region. This year’s website, [www.discoverhiddentreasures.org](http://www.discoverhiddentreasures.org), is a great resource to plan your regional adventure from the more than 100 activities offered.

**Groton’s** full program of 11 events can be found at <http://www.discoverhiddentreasures.org/discover-hidden-treasures-by-community/groton-ma/>. These events include hikes, mountain biking, canoeing/kayaking, geology trolley tours, an introduction to the region’s new fully accessible trail in the forest along the Nashua River, and a presentation on the “Gifts of the Glaciers” that explains the great biodiversity of Groton. The detailed schedule can also be found below.

Freedom’s Way has collaborated with our partners, offering targeted support and providing a framework for program development. Our partners are our treasure and we appreciate the efforts of all who are working to make our Second Annual Hidden Treasures program a great success.

**Schedule of Events  
Groton’s Hidden Treasures**

**Saturday, May 14:**

9:00-11:30 – **“What Glaciers Left Behind” – A Geology Trolley Tour**; An interactive tour of Groton’s glacial features for geology enthusiasts of all ages. The field trip will include brief stops at points of interest with some walking required. An interactive field guide will be provided for each participant. Closed-shoes and appropriate outerwear is recommended. The tour will be led by Nancy Jackson, a geochemist and an experienced and inspirational educator

Discover Freedom’s Way – Explore the Hidden Treasures within your National Heritage Area

and artist. Meet at Groton Town Hall, 173 Main St. Must pre-register at [geologytour@embedinc.com](mailto:geologytour@embedinc.com); no dogs allowed. Family friendly.

9:30 – 6:30 - **Canoe & Kayak the Nashua River**; self-guided trips allows you to explore the beautiful, friendly Nashua River at your own pace. Paddle south to the confluence of the Squannacook River past conservation properties including Groton Place, Sabine Woods, Surrenden Farm, and Groton Town Forest or head north past Lawrence Woods to the picturesque Fitch's Bridge; mention Freedom's Way Hidden Treasures event to receive a 25% discount on rentals or to launch your own boat (launch fees and restrictions will be waived); located at 398 West Main St. (Rte. 225); [www.nashobapaddler.com](http://www.nashobapaddler.com)

12:00-2:00 pm – **Rich State Forest (DCR) hike**; views of the Nashua River (prehistoric Lake Nashua and river delta); sponsored by Groton Trails Committee; leader Paul Funch; meet at John Tinker Trail parking lot, which is about 1/3 mile north of Rte. 119 on Nod Rd. This will be a 3-4 mile hike. Family friendly.

### **Sunday, May 15:**

1:00-3:00 pm – **Rocky Hill (Mass Audubon Sanctuary) hike**; view major outcroppings, extensive wetlands, and striking biodiversity; co-sponsored by Groton Trails Committee and Appalachian Mountain Club; leader Olin Lathrop; meet at Sanctuary parking lot off Robin Hill Rd., which is off Rte. 119 near Shaw's; no dogs allowed.

3:30-5:00 – **"Gifts of the Glaciers" video** that presents Groton's geological and human history with Q&A afterwards; learn about drumlin swarms, eskers, kames, kettle holes, and why Groton was protected as a hunting area by the region's natives; co-presenters Bob Pine (geologist, ecologist) and Mike Roberts (historian, archaeologist); co-sponsored by Groton Conservation Trust and Groton Historical Society; 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room in Groton Town Hall, 173 Main St; no dogs allowed. Family friendly.

5:00-6:30 – **Gibbet Hill hike**; spectacular view of the region from atop Groton's iconic drumlin and a chance to inspect the stone shell of the former Bancroft "Castle"; sponsored by Groton Trails Committee; leader Paul Funch; meet at Groton Town Hall, 173 Main St. A moderate hill climb is involved.

### **Wednesday, May 18:**

12:00-4:00 – **John Tinker Trail walks**; this universally accessible trail goes along the Nashua River through the Rich State Forest and ends near the site of Groton's first trading post built by Groton's founder and first Selectman John Tinker; sponsored by Groton Trails Committee; leader Paul Funch; meet at John Tinker Trail parking lot, which is about 1/3 mile north of Rte. 119 on Nod Rd; only service dogs allowed. Family friendly.

5:30-7:00 – **Groton Town Forest mountain bike tour**; intermediate level ride through an ancient river delta that is pock-mocked with glacial kettle holes, covered with eskers, and that provides views of the Nashua River and its Dead River Oxbow; sponsored by Groton Trails Committee; leader Dave Burnham; meet at parking lot at end of Town Forest Rd. off Wharton Row, which is off Rte. 225 in W. Groton; no dogs allowed.

### **Saturday, May 21:**

12:00-2:30 - **"What Glaciers Left Behind" – A Geology Trolley Tour**; An interactive tour of Groton's glacial features for geology enthusiasts of all ages. The field trip will include brief stops at points of interest with some walking required. An interactive field guide will be

provided for each participant. Closed-shoes and appropriate outerwear is recommended. The tour will be led by Nancy Jackson, a geochemist and an experienced and inspirational educator and artist. Meet at Groton Town Hall, 173 Main St. Must pre-register at [geologytour@embedinc.com](mailto:geologytour@embedinc.com); no dogs allowed. Family friendly.

**Sunday, May 22:**

1:00-3:00 – **Gamlin Crystal Spring's Indian Rock Trail and Boulder Trail hike**; view outcroppings, glacial erratics, and beaver ponds; co-sponsored by Groton Conservation Trust and Groton Trails Committee; co-leaders David Minott (GTC) and Suzanna Black (GCT); meet at parking area on the west side of Old Dunstable Rd. (just south of #450) at Gamlin Crystal Springs. Family friendly.

8:30-1:00 - **Groton Trails mountain bike tour**; advanced level ride covering many of Groton's drumlins, eskers, and wetlands; sponsored by Groton Trails Committee; leader Dave Burnham; meet at Lawrence Academy's Spaulding parking lot off Rte. 40, about ¼ mile east of Rte. 119; no dogs allowed.