



Hiking the Sourlands: Fall 2021

Each hike is free and limited to 15 participants, unless otherwise noted. For more information and to register, visit our Facebook page or subscribe to our ENewsletter at www.Sourland.org

Saturday, Aug. 7, 9:00-11:00am, Putting the Fun in Funghi. Our mushroom hike is back by popular demand! If you're having trouble telling the difference between Hen of the Woods and Chanterelles, this is the foray for you. Experience the wonder of finding wild mushrooms with local expert Nina Burghardt of the New Jersey Mycological Association. At the Sourland Mountain Preserve.

Thursday, Sept. 23 5:30 – 7:30pm, The Sustainable Vineyard. Not our typical hike, but you're sure to enjoy exploring Unionville Vineyards, one of the region's oldest and most recognized vineyards, dedicated to making great wine in a healthy, thoughtful way. Join General Manager John Cifelli for a walk through the vines at Unionville's home in Ringoes and learn how they are enhancing the craft of artisan winemaking through renewable energy and sustainable farming practices. We'll tour the vineyard's ground-mounted solar array, installed in 2020, and hear about other sustainable approaches, such as "no mow" cover cropping to reduce herbicide use and encourage the growth of local grasses and new microorganisms. Attendance is limited to 30 people. Complimentary wine tasting will be offered at the end of the program.

Sunday, Sept. 26, 9:30-11:30am, Walk with Jim Amon. This walk at the Sourlands Ecosystem Preserve will occur just at the point where summer has ended but autumn has not yet begun to show its glory. It is a special time of transition and we will try to find signs of the glorious colors to come and at the same time the natural world's last grasp on the fullness of summer. The trail goes through a lovely, intact Sourland forest and will offer for our enjoyment some wonderful, mature canopy trees, derelict stone walls from the property's 19th century use as farmland, and a former meadow which should be full of goldenrod, asters, and dogwood trees whose leaves mimic the gold and purple of the flowers. Led by Jim Amon, environmentalist and former Executive Director of the D&R Canal Commission.

Sunday, Oct. 10, 10:00am-12:00pm, New Trail: How We Built This. Ever wonder about the history of your favorite hiking preserve? Who built this stone staircase? How'd they do it? How many generations have walked this path before me? FoHVOS and D&R Greenway staff and volunteers will lead this beautiful and informative walk on one of the Sourlands' newest trails, Woosamonsa Ridge in Pennington. Bring questions!

Sunday, Oct. 10, 2:00-4:00pm, Orienteering. Join us for a fun introduction to orienteering basics at Baldpate Mountain. Learn how to read a map, and use trail markers, elevation lines and other clues to find your way through the course. Participants will use their new skills to go on a fun hike by themselves on existing trails (the hike will take about 1 hour). Families welcome! Please note, participants can arrive any time between 2 and 3:30. We will give brief tutorials on mapreading as participants arrive. Led by experienced orienteering expert Mona Fixdal.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 9:00 – 11:00am, Archaeology on the Rockhopper Trail. Come and discover the historic secrets of the Rockhopper Trail in West Amwell with archaeologist and historian Ian Burrow. This beautiful trail takes us through woodlands, boulder fields, along abandoned roads, and beside towering stone walls. Traces of historic industry and farming will be seen, as well as a remarkable feature that may be much older than anything else in this area.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 10:00am-12:00pm, Geology. Explore the boulders on top of Goat Hill with local geologist Phil Getty to learn about the 200 million year old diabase rocks which form many of the ridgetops of the Sourlands. Learn about the history and formation of the mountain on this easy hike where we will also enjoy the beautiful fall views of the Delaware River, New Hope and Lambertville.