

Join LRCT on a Guided Excursion in September!

The Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) is offering a number of guided excursions this year on conserved properties throughout the Lakes Region. Guided excursions provide a great opportunity to explore LRCT's conserved lands—new places or places you know well—with knowledgeable guides and people interested in the conservation of the region's natural heritage. A number of trips are planned for September; we hope you will join us on one or more upcoming excursions!

Friday, September 10: Dr. Rick Van de Poll will present a slideshow on mushroom identification at LRCT's headquarters in Center Harbor followed by a guided mushroom hike from the headquarters through recently conserved Center Harbor Woods. You may choose to attend just the slideshow from 9 a.m.-10 a.m., or both the slideshow and the hike, which will return at noon. Center Harbor Woods is a 225-acre parcel recently conserved in a collaborative effort between the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, which now owns the property, and the Squam Lakes Conservation Society and the Town of Center Harbor, which now hold a conservation easement. This guided excursion provides a great opportunity to learn about fungi in their natural habitat as well as which common species are edible, poisonous, or medicinal.

Friday, September 17: Join LRCT for a hike at LRCT's 372-acre Red Hill River Conservation Area in Sandwich. The morning hike will lead participants through this beautiful property which provides excellent wildlife habitat, preserves wetlands and stream corridors, and also has a rich human history. LRCT stewardship volunteers Jocelyn Gutchess, Fred Lavigne, and Chris Conrod will guide participants along the trails, identifying signs of wildlife and sharing the local history of this land. The trails are well-graded with fairly easy, slightly rolling terrain; participants may also choose to take a few side trips with the guides away from the trails into significant wildlife habitat areas. The guided hike will begin at 9 a.m. and return at approximately noon; bring a picnic lunch to enjoy along the way. The Red Hill River Conservation Area was acquired by LRCT in 2004 as one of five Emerson parcels permanently conserved in one significant 800-acre conservation initiative.

Saturday, September 25: Join LRCT for a loop hike to the summit of Mt. Roberts (elev. 2,582') at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area. This 8¼-mile hike will lead participants from the Cold Spring Trail to the Faraway Mountain Trail to the High Ridge Trail to the summit of Mt. Roberts, which has spectacular views of the White Mountains to the north. The hike will return from the summit of Mt. Roberts along the scenic Mt. Roberts Trail, which crosses open ledges with views southerly across Lake Winnepesaukee. This is a strenuous hike which will begin at 9 a.m. and return at approximately 2 p.m. The 5,381-acre Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area, located in Moultonborough and Tuftonboro, was acquired by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust in 2002 and encompasses over 28 miles of hiking trails stewarded by dedicated LRCT volunteers. The Mt. Roberts hike will be led by Larry DeGeorge, LRCT's Property Adopter for the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area who directs volunteer stewardship projects and trail maintenance throughout this vast property.

For upcoming guided hike descriptions, details, and directions, please visit LRCT's website (www.lrct.org) and click on the homepage links. Please let us know if you plan to participate (603-253-3301; lrct@lrct.org). All LRCT guided excursions are free to LRCT members and volunteers. Non-members are encouraged to make a donation in support of LRCT programs.