

# OPENING CELEBRATION OF THE DEBORAH AND ROGER RICHARDSON NATURE PRESERVE

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

JUNE 9, 2018, 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., 577B WILMARTH ST., ATTLEBORO, MA... RAIN OR SHINE

### 10 a.m.

**INTRODUCTION TO GEOCACHING** - Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices such as a smartphone. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. The first 20 minutes under the tent will be an introduction to the geocaching application and the last 40 minutes will be searching for a couple of caches. Offered by the Attleboro Geocaching Alliance: Richard Cheyne, Bill Lewis, Mike Gaudett and Kathy Barlett. Suitable for adults, teens and children with adult supervision. *Meet under the tent in the glen.*

**DEBORAH'S GARDEN** – Deborah Richardson took great pleasure in the original landscaping of this property with both native and select cultivars. Your host, Phil Boucher, MCH and former local nurseryman worked on this property over many years and knew Deborah well. He will recall some of his personal experiences, her many horticultural talents and dedication to the land and how it relates to this garden. *Meet at Deborah's Garden.*

### 11 a.m.

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION HIKE** — Kathi Gariepy, Master Gardener, former education coordinator for MA Audubon in Attleboro, and conservation commissioner, will lead you around the 1-mile Charlie Wyman trail to identify important and notable plants and trees there in the woods, along the fields and near the vernal pool. You will hear the history and colorful tidbits of information of some of the species; and identification of the invasive plants that are plaguing our landscapes. *Meet at the information table.*

**NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT** – Morning and afternoon scavenger hunts are available to entertain, engage and focus your trail walk on nature's treasures. The hunts are designed for kids and adults of all ages, but one hunt is more challenging than the other. You may attempt completing both! Some items may be simple to find like a bed of moss or a shiny rock other items such as a seed pod or a specific rock formation may be more difficult to find and require sharp observation skills! Small prizes will be provided for those that complete or try to complete either hunt! Adults must accompany young children. *Meet at the picnic tables in the lower field.*

**THE NEPONSET RIVER RAMBLERS** – 5 local musicians with 2 guitars and a bass, banjo and mandolin will play primarily Bluegrass from traditional to old time Gospel. *They will play in the upper field near the glen from 11am – 1pm.*

### 12 Noon

A **PRIVATE LUNCH** will be served to invited guests and honorees. *Meet under the tent in the glen.*

**BOXED PICNIC LUNCHES** each with a sandwich, chips, cookie and drink, will be for sale, at cost, at the *tables with the yellow flag* in the upper field. Picnic tables will be nearby. Feel free to bring your own lunch and use the tables or bring a blanket.

**1 – 2 MILE POWER WALK** – Not everyone comes to the woods and fields to explore nature. Some people come 'Strictly for Exercise.' Lynne Mendes, a commissioner on the Attleboro Recreation Commission and volunteer with the Attleboro Y, will lead power walkers around the 1-mile Charlie Wyman trail at a fast pace. It is your choice to go 1x or 2x. *Meet at the information table.*

### 1 p.m.

**THE GRAND OPENING CEREMONY AND TREE DEDICATION** – Everyone is invited to honor the memory of Deborah and Roger Richardson and recognize the generosity of their sons, Thomas and Stephen Richardson, who donated the property. We will also honor major donors and volunteers who together, over the past 2 years, have made possible: Mapping and construction of the trails and boardwalks, mowing and preparation of the fields, design and construction of the signs and kiosks, landscaping of the property, renovation of the exterior of the historic Barrows house, and the June 9<sup>th</sup> scheduled activities. Planting and dedication of a memorial tree and bench in honor of Deborah and Roger Richardson will follow immediately afterwards.

**SLOW RAMBLE** – Not everyone comes to the woods and fields to explore nature. Some people come ‘Strictly for Exercise.’ Lynne Mendes, a commissioner on the Attleboro Recreation Commission and volunteer with the Attleboro Y, will lead a leisurely walk one time around the 1-mile Charlie Wyman trail. *Meet at the information table.*

**2 p.m.**

**HISTORY OF THE BARROWS HOUSE, C. 1708, THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE** – Bill Lewis, one of the Nickerson NP’s land stewards, will present for 30 minutes under the tent on the history of Attleboro, the significance of this property, and what went on there. Weather permitting, his presentation will be followed by a 20-minute walk to view inside the house and to locate other foundations. *Meet at the tent in the glen.*

**INAUGURAL HIKE OF THE CHARLIE WYMAN TRAIL** – Charlie Adler, environmentalist, founder and property chair of the Attleboro Land Trust will lead the ‘ceremonial first hike’ around this loop trail. Along the way, Charlie will describe how land protection wizard Charlie Wyman orchestrated a strategy for saving this valuable piece of land from development.

**VERNAL POOL HIKE** – Gary Krofta, local naturalist, has been certifying vernal pools in the Attleboro area for many years. Gary will lead a short walk to a vernal pool where he will describe the characteristics and significance of vernal pools, and why it is important to protect them. *Meet at the information table.*

**TREE IDENTIFICATION HIKE** – Learn about the trees at the Richardson Preserve from Phil Boucher, MCH and horticultural consultant for the ALT. There will be interesting facts, horticultural surprises and observations of the natural surroundings of the on-site trees and understory plants, relating to the importance of preservation and conservation efforts on the Richardson Preserve and other ALT properties. *Meet at the trail sign for the Charlie Wyman trail.*

**NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT** – Morning and afternoon scavenger hunts are available to entertain, engage and focus your trail walk on nature’s treasures. Each scavenger hunt will offer two versions that are designed for kids and adults of all ages, with one hunt more challenging than the other. You may attempt completing both! Some items may be simple to find like a bed of moss or a shiny rock; other items such as a seed pod or a specific rock formation may be more difficult to find and require sharp observation skills! Small prizes will be provided for those that complete or try to complete either hunt! Adults must accompany young children. *Meet at the picnic tables in the lower field.*

**ALL DAY, 10 a.m – 3 p.m.**

**LOWER FIELD** – The lower field will host activities all day that visitors can do independently:

**THE HAPPY SNOWMAN ALPACA FARM**, currently in Attleboro and owned and operated by Janice Ciskowski will host up to 5 alpacas in a pen where you may pet, feed and learn about them. The Alpaca Farm will be moving to Maine in the fall so come visit our neighboring camelids now. The **alpaca** (*Vicugna pacos*) is similar to, and often confused with, llamas. The two animals are closely related.

**GAMES** will be available for your independent use in the lower field: Horseshoes, Ring Toss, Corn Hole, and Frisbee.

**UPPER FIELD**

The **INFORMATION TABLE** will be located at the northern end of the upper field. Please come here with any questions you may have and for the following: A schedule of activities, map of the property, water, and first aid supplies.

**Porta Potties**, including one that is accessible for people who use wheelchairs, are available in the upper field.

**\*\*\*\*\*There is poison ivy throughout the Nature Preserve. Please wear socks and shoes and be cautious. \*\*\*\*\***