

## **Appalachian Trail hike and Mass by the Housatonic river Oct 15 2:00 to 5:00 pm**

The Appalachian Trail, commonly known by backpackers as the A.T., is a popular 2,167 mile wilderness footpath. The Appalachian Trail is a registered National Scenic Trail that winds along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains from Georgia in the south to Maine in the north. More specifically, the A.T. runs through the scenic wooded and pastoral lands of fourteen eastern US states, stretching from Springer Mountain, Georgia, in the south to Mount Katahdin, Maine, in the north. Each year many hikers take 5 to 7 months and hike the whole trail camping at shelters along the trail. We will hike a portion of the trail that a friend calls the most beautiful part of the trail as it winds through CT. We will see a shelter where the hikers sleep and have the opportunity to drink water from a hand-pump well in the middle of the forest. Then we will celebrate Mass and have a picnic along the Housatonic river.

We will meet at the parking lot by the Bulls Bridge covered bridge. There is no longer parking on the west side of the bridge so we will be walking across the single-lane covered bridge where we will get great views of the water falls. Bulls Bridge Inn, 33 Kent rd, Kent Ct can be used in your GPS if you aren't familiar with the location. Pass the Inn and at the next red light turn left then immediately left again into the parking lot.

This is a family hike so parents and others who can handle the hike are welcome. Pack a lunch/dinner and drinks you would like for the picnic. Hiking shoes are preferred but for sure no flip flops or bare foot hikers.

If anyone needs a ride please try to arrange something with friends or let Katie know so she can work something out. It's about 30 minutes from New Fairfield straight up route 7.

Hope to see you there!