

## RECREATION/CONCERT EVENT

### PRESS RELEASE

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## Walking folk musicians take on the Appalachian Trail

*Ten free community concerts and daily public hikes through the Berkshires*

**Western MA, June 17 — After a two-year hiatus, the Massachusetts Walking Tour sets forth on perhaps their most adventurous trek to date, taking on the Massachusetts section of the Appalachian Trail. Over a ten-day stretch, the troupe of troubadours have organized daily public hikes and will perform free community concerts each evening, walking with their packs and instruments from Sheffield to North Adams.**

**Since 2010, singer-songwriters Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards have organized this grassroots bipedal trek annually to raise awareness of recreational greenspace throughout the state and create folk music coffeehouse style musical events. This June, with help from several local AT Communities' volunteers, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts Walking Tour is a series of daily section hikes along the Appalachian Trail, each followed by an evening concert sponsored in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The trek begins June 17<sup>th</sup> in Sheffield and finishes June 26<sup>th</sup> in North Adams, stopping for concerts in Egremont, Great Barrington, Tyringham, Lee, Washington, Dalton, Cheshire and Adams. For complete details on daily hikes and a list of concert venues, visit [www.masswalkingtour.org](http://www.masswalkingtour.org).**

**The Massachusetts Walking Tour has performed over 121 concerts in 103 towns across the state, partnering with the National Parks Service, Trustees, DCR, Freedoms Way and AMC to hike sections of the Mid-State Trail, New England National Scenic Trail, Bay Circuit Trail, and many of the region's smaller recreational greenspaces. In 2017, Senator Ed Markey officially recognized the Massachusetts Walking Tour in the congressional record for an annual commitment to promoting trails, arts and culture throughout the state.**

**"Our intention is simply to help people understand the importance of greenspace in our busy lives by inviting them out for a walk, to see younger and older folks hiking together, sharing thoughts on a nice day out in the woods," states co-founder Mark Mandeville. "As for the concerts, we do our best to create a respectful listening environment which highlights local performers, artists and folks with good work to announce – in that way, each concert is unique."**

**Aside from organizing the Massachusetts Walking Tour, performing and recording their original compositions, Mandeville and Richards serve as music teachers in central MA through Blackstone Valley Music, an independently owned school with a popular Band Camp Program and monthly community coffeehouse. Find out more about Mark & Raianne at [www.markandraianne.com](http://www.markandraianne.com)**



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### Complete Concert Schedule / Daily Hikes

Friday June 17 2022

**First Congregational Church of Sheffield  
(Old Parish Church)**

125 Main St, Sheffield, MA 01257

Sponsored by the Sheffield Cultural Council

*HIKE: 8 trail miles. 3.5 road walk to venue.*

**Start:** [Mt Frissell/Northwest Camp Trailhead.](#)

**End:** [Rt 41 Race Brook Falls Parking Area.](#)

Saturday June 18 2022

**April Hill Education & Conservation Center**

62 Undermountain Rd. South Egremont, MA 01258

Sponsored by the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council

*HIKE: 4.8 trail miles. End point is at venue.*

**Start:** [Guilder Pond Trailhead Mt Everett](#)

[Reservation.](#)

**End:** [April Hill \(Greenagers\)](#)

Sunday June 19 2022

**Mason Library Children's Garden**

(behind the library, entrance on Pleasant Street)

231 Main Street Great Barrington, MA 01230

Sponsored by the GBCC and the Great Barrington Libraries

*HIKE: 6.5 trail miles. 3.4 road walk to venue.*

**Start:** [April Hill \(Greenagers\)](#)

**End:** [Home Rd, Great Barrington MA](#)

Monday June 20 2022

**Tyringham Union Church**

128 Main Rd, Tyringham, MA 01264

Sponsored by the Tyringham Cultural Council

*HIKE: 11 trail miles. 0.8 road walk to venue.*

**Start:** [Rt 23 AT Parking, Monterrey, MA](#)

**End:** [End at Jerusalem Rd](#)

Tuesday June 21 2022

**Lee Library**

100 Main Street Lee, MA 01238

Sponsored by the Lee Cultural Council and Lee Library Association

*HIKE: 8.9 trail miles. 5.3 road walk to venue.*

**Start:** [176 Main Rd, Tyringham](#)

**End:** [Rt 20 parking area 2120 Cape St, Lee](#)

Wednesday June 22 2022

**Old Town Hall**

Approx. 452 Pittsfield Rd Washington, Massachusetts

Sponsored by a grant from the Washington Cultural Council

*HIKE: 9.4 trail miles. 2.6 road walk to venue.*

**Start:** [Rt 20 parking area 2120 Cape St, Lee.](#)

**End:** [Blueberry Hill AT Parking 47 Washington Mtn Rd, Washington](#)

Thursday June 23 2022

**The Stationery Factory**

63 Flansburg Ave, Dalton, MA 01226

Sponsored by the Dalton Cultural Council

*HIKE: 10.5 trail miles. 0.5 road walk to venue.*

**Start:** [Blueberry Hill AT Parking 47 Washington Mtn Rd, Washington](#)

**End:** [Curtis Ave/Pine Grove Park Dalton](#)

Friday June 24 2022

**Father Tom Campsite**

6 Main St. Cheshire, MA 01225

Town of Cheshire 3rd Annual Appalachian Trail Community Celebration

and Dedication Ceremony of the Father Tom Campsite

Sponsored by the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire

*HIKE: 7.3 trail miles. Arrive at venue.*

**Start:** [Gulf Rd AT Parking, 71 Gulf Rd, Dalton MA](#)

**End:** [Father Tom Campsite Railroad St, Cheshire MA](#)

Saturday June 25 2022 (5pm Concert)

**Bascom Lodge**

Mt. Greylock State Reservation

off rt. 7 Lanesboro MA 01247

Sponsored by the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire

*HIKE: 8.3 trail miles. Arrive at Venue.*

**Start:** [Father Tom Campsite Railroad St, Cheshire MA](#)

**End:** [Bascom Lodge Mt Greylock Summit \(parking fee\)](#)

Sunday June 26 2022

**First Congregational Church of North Adams**

134 Main St. North Adams, MA 01247

Sponsored by the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire and the First Congregational Church of North Adams

*HIKE: 6.3 trail miles. 2.7 road walk to venue.*

**Start:** [Bascom Lodge Mt Greylock Summit \(parking fee\)](#) **End:** [Phelps Ave/Rt 2 intersection AT parking](#)

