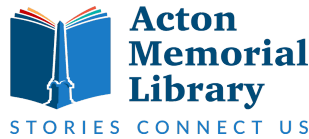


# 2025 Fall Programs



The Friends of Pine Hawk 2025 Programs are presented with support from Acton Memorial Library and Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.



Freedom's  
Way NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA

Events are free but require registration at <https://tinyurl.com/2025-Pinehawk>

Questions? Email [friends.of.pinehawk@gmail.com](mailto:friends.of.pinehawk@gmail.com)

## Discover Ancient Nipmuc Mishoonash at Lake Quinsigamond

Thursday, October 9, 7 PM in person only at Acton Memorial Library



Join Cheryl Stedtler of Project Mishoon for an immersive journey into underwater archaeology, Indigenous heritage, and 1640s canoe discoveries that are reshaping New England's historical narrative. History emerges from beneath the surface.

## Adult Archaeology Walk

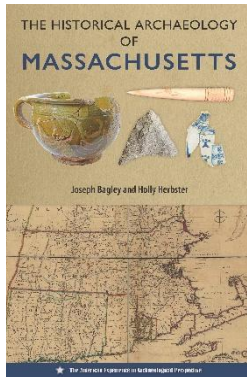
Saturday, October 18, 10 AM–noon



Bettina Abe, a retired member of Acton's Conservation Department and a long-time leader of hikes along Acton's trails, will lead a new and brisk hiking route this year, exploring local archaeology along the Nashoba Brook, Robbins Mill, and Spring Hill connector Trails. This year's hike will begin at the Robbins Mill Conservation Parking lot on Carlisle Road and will include stops at the Roof Slab Quarry, the Robbins Mill Pond and mill site, and the Pipsissewa Native American ceremonial sites. Trail conditions can be rocky, uneven, and often wet, and thus participation is limited. Registrants will receive a detailed email several days before the walk. Limited to 20, ages 17 and up.

## The Historical Archaeology of Massachusetts

Wednesday, October 22, 7 PM in person only at Acton Memorial Library



Some of America's most significant historic archaeological sites are located in Massachusetts and some of the earliest and most influential archaeologists investigated sites in the Commonwealth. Join archaeologist Holly Herbster for an overview of Massachusetts' post-1600 archaeological heritage, its role in the development of historical archaeology, and the ways in which current research and collaboration are helping to rediscover histories that have long been hidden or ignored.

## Hockomock Swamp Field Trip

Saturday, November 1, 10 AM - noon; depart Acton at 9 AM

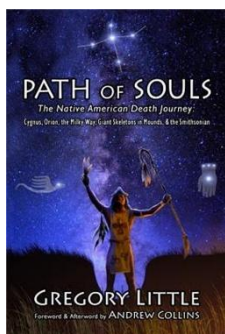


"Hockomock" in Algonquin means "land where spirits dwell" and is a revered Wampanoag sacred site, and later a "Devil's Swamp" for English settlers. Join Dan Boudillion and Bettina Abe for a 2-mile hike at Hockomock Swamp, a Massachusetts Wildlife Management Area in Raynham, Mass. There is much lore surrounding the history of Hockomock Swamp, beginning in the 1600s. The area is the largest freshwater swamp in the state and is known for sightings of floating orbs of light, ghostly voices, and

phantom drums linked to its past as an ancient burial ground and a natural fortress during King Phillip's War. We will walk the trail, while Dan shares the many stories and lore he has collected over the years. We will meet in Acton and carpool down Route 495 for approximately one hour drive to "the Bridgewater Triangle."

## Path of Souls: Traces of the Native Death Journey in Nashobah

Wednesday, November 5, 7 PM in person only at Acton Memorial Library



The book *Path of Souls: the Native American Death Journey* gives evidence of shamanic soul travel to the Milky Way in mound cultures. Are there traces of such structures and travel in Nashobah? Yes. Nashobah historian, Dan Boudillion, will explore local structures that mirror the arrangements identified by Gregory Little in the book and which may have been used for similar purposes.

## Native Stewardship of Mother Earth

Saturday, November 8, 2 PM in person only at Acton Memorial Library



Nashoba Praying Indian Grand Chief Quiet Storm will talk about how we as a community can be good stewards of the land in all spaces. She will also highlight how we can better support the pollinators and biodiversity that we rely on to sustain our life on Mother Earth.

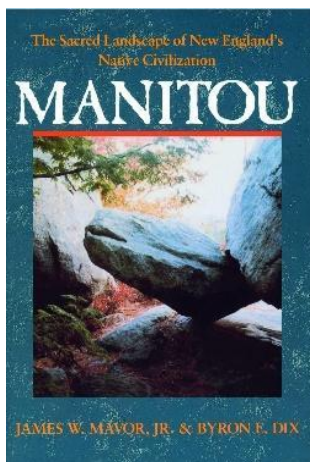
## Community Service Day

Sunday, November 9, 1-3 PM, in person only.



Assist with trail and site maintenance on the Nashoba Brook Conservation Land's Trail Through Time, a multicultural heritage trail in North Acton. The focus of this annual effort this year will be on trail and site maintenance. Local Scout troops are also invited to join. There will be an optional brunch beforehand at 11:30 AM. Details will be emailed to registrants a few days in advance. Limited to 25, ages 13 and up.

**Manitou Book Discussion** Thursday, November 13, 7-8:30 PM, in person only at Acton Memorial Library.



Join a group discussion of the groundbreaking work *Manitou: The Sacred Landscape of New England's Native Civilization*. This book is now a classic in the archaeology of our region. Several decades ago, one of the authors, Boxborough resident Byron Dix, discovered the first of many areas in New England believed to be ancient Native American sites. Dix and coauthor James Mavor tell the fascinating story of the discovery and exploration of these many stone structures and standing stones, many of which are believed to play an important role in celestial observation and ritual. One chapter is devoted primarily to the stone structures of Boxborough and its magnificent esker, the locale of the November 15 walk.





### **Boxborough Esker Walk**

Saturday, November 15 at 1 PM-3 PM

The Boxborough Esker Walk in memory of George Krusen is sponsored by both the Boxborough Conservation Trust (BCTrust) and the Friends of Pinehawk. The landscape of Boxborough was sculpted over millions of years, but some of the most dramatic features formed “only” about 15,000 years ago. The Beaver Brook Valley Preserve protects a beautiful example of an esker – a long, sinuous ridge of sediment that was formed under the edge of an enormous glacier at the end of the last ice age. Tufts geologist Anne Gardulski will guide the walk along the crest of the Boxborough Esker and explain how it formed, looking at the evidence in the sediments. Rita Grossman, BCTrust’s president, will also note how the efforts of George Krusen were key in protecting this significant geological feature from being fully excavated for gravel to build I-495. George also deeply appreciated the Native American imprints on the land in our region. Brian McClain from Friends of Pinehawk will point out possible Indigenous stone structures including those as described in the book *Manitou*, which will be discussed at the Pinehawk event taking place on November 13th.

Note: this trail walk involves climbing steep terrain. Details, including preparation, will be emailed to registrants a few days in advance. For ages 13 and up and is limited to 40 participants.