

Sunday September 24th , Bus Trip (see times below)

Collecting Area: William Cullen Bryant Homestead, Cummington, MA

Meeting Place: Pick-up #1 at 9:30 am, Francis Street lot, Harvard Uni.

Pick-up # 2 at 10:15am 945 Concord Street, Framingham

Please note, a \$25 fee is required to cover the luxury bus. Payment is by PayPal on the BMC website, prior to the foray. Registration begins July 18th

A new special feature on this year's walk schedule is a bus trip to a rare and beautiful old growth forest in Cummington, MA. (Just West of Amherst). The Trustees of Reservations have been kind enough to invite us to come and foray in this unique environment. This is an event you won't want to miss.

William Cullen Bryant was one of America's premier poets, He also served as Editor and Publisher of the New York Evening Post for 50 years. Bryant was a leading conservationist and horticulturalist and a pioneer in these areas. From 1865 until his death in 1878, Bryant summered here at his boyhood home, today a National Historic Landmark. He converted the two-story farmhouse into a rambling three-story Victorian cottage and expanded the sprawling red barn to store apples and pears from his orchards.

The Homestead's pastoral landscape, largely unchanged for more than 150 years, includes pastures, fields, Sugar Maples (that have been tapped for more than 200 years), and woodlands. We will be exploring the Rivulet Trail, where old growth, including ancient specimens of hemlock, yellow birch and a magnificent cherry tree, rise near the Rivulet, a trickling stream immortalized by Bryant's 1823 poem of the same name.

The adjacent Pine Loop features enormous pines that reach heights of 150 feet – a stand among the tallest in the Northeast.

Map: <http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/pioneer-valley/bryant-homestead.html>

Leader: David Babik, 774-286-9400, dbabik@rcn.com