



It is summer in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area of the Green Mountain National Forest. Black flies are gone and so are the spring wildflowers. Chicory, oxeye daisies, wild ginger, and Queen Anne's lace have replaced them. This is also blueberry season in the region, proclaimed as the "Wild Blueberry Capitol of Vermont" by resolution at this year's state legislative session. Whether it is picking wild blueberries on more than thirty acres of jointly managed areas by the Moosalamoo Association and the Forest Service or share picking of domestic berries at Blueberry Hill Inn, you are in for a summertime treat. Mid- to late July is usually the peak time to pick the wild berries in the management area and mid-to-late August is ripe for the domestics at the Blueberry Hill Inn.

If you are looking for something a little more adventurous, consider the Goshen Gallop. Now in its 32nd year, the rugged 10K racecourse takes the runner on the dirt and gravel roads of Goshen and onto a packed soil surface up to 2100 feet above sea level following Nordic Cross-Country ski trails set in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. The Goshen Gallop originated in 1978 through the idea of local people thinking the Blueberry Hill Inn and Ski Center ought to host an event in the summer to match their winter event the American Ski Marathon. In the early 80's it was decided to make the Goshen Gallop a cross country run using the Blueberry Hill cross country ski trails and a few of Goshen's gravel roads. Always held the 3rd Saturday of July, the Goshen Gallop is decidedly the event of the summer. Runners come from far and wide, attracting over 100 racers from all over New England, the Mid Atlantic and various other states, not to mention Canada and even some other foreign countries. An exciting and challenging event welcomes runners of all abilities. There is also a 5K race offered for those not quite as adventuresome. The 32nd annual race begins at 4:00 p.m. at Blueberry Hill Inn, Saturday, July 17, 2010, with food, fun, and more following the race. Proceeds will be used by the non-profit Moosalamoo Association for completing enhancement projects in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area.

For more information and registration go to www.blueberryhillinn.com/gallop1.htm or www.moosalamoo.org

The mission of the Association is to: Collaborate with public entities to plan, manage, and provide stewardship for wildlife habitat conservation and quality public recreation opportunities and facilities, promote responsible recreation participation and environmental awareness through interpretation, education and resource monitoring, demonstrate the unique capabilities of public and private partners working together, and strengthen partnerships at the local level in cooperative projects such as trail construction and maintenance, wildlife habitat improvement, or visual enhancement of roadsides.

Moosalamoo NRA is a 20,000-acre region of public and private land nestled in the Green Mountain National Forest. Moosalamoo's diverse ecosystem is home to a large number of plants and animals. The region is also a marvelous recreation area for wildlife viewing, berry picking, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, picnicking, and camping.

Bruce Brown is an original Moosalamoo Association board of directors. After thirty years with Vermont State Park, Bruce now divides his time between Vermont, volunteering for Moosalamoo, the Rutland

County Humane Society, and the Friends of Brandon Town Hall, and in Arizona, volunteering at the Hassayampa Nature Preserve and the Wickenburg Humane Society.

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