

The Brandon Hills - Hiking the East Side June 20, 2020

Twelve hikers, Carlene, Di, Spirit, Cathryn, Hernan, Tim, Mae, Christian, Shannon, Robert, Audrey, Olwen and James, gathered at the Southeast Trailhead for Brandon Hills. Two prospective new members plus two GeoCachers had joined our Westman Wilderness Club group of 8.



We set off on schedule and the beginning of the hike was a trek up to the summit of the South Spine. Views of the prairies to the east and the forest to the west were available for all as we trekked down the top of the South Spine and North Spine then descended down to the north end of Grand Downhill trail. A variety of vegetation was evident along the spine, and Mae was happy to identify all the different species for us.



At this point we entered the forested area for the hike up the Grand Downhill to the North & South trail junction and on to Paul's trail. It was at this point that we lost two hikers who had other geocaching intentions.

Paul's trail took us west to the Old Blue Car for our snacks and refreshments.

After our break we headed back east on Lucky 2 trail. A short northern section of Ron's Hill trail took us to the Gun Club trail. The final push south on the Gun Club trail brought us back to the parking lot after about 3 hours of hiking and an hour of snacking and rest stops.

James

Comments from the participants:

We found the vegetation very interesting on the grass hill and it was great to have people like Mae to identify them.

Robert

On today's hike I especially enjoyed the varied landscape. We saw many different wild flowers and Mae's expertise in their identification was very much appreciated.

Olwen

Happy Solstice friends! ☀️

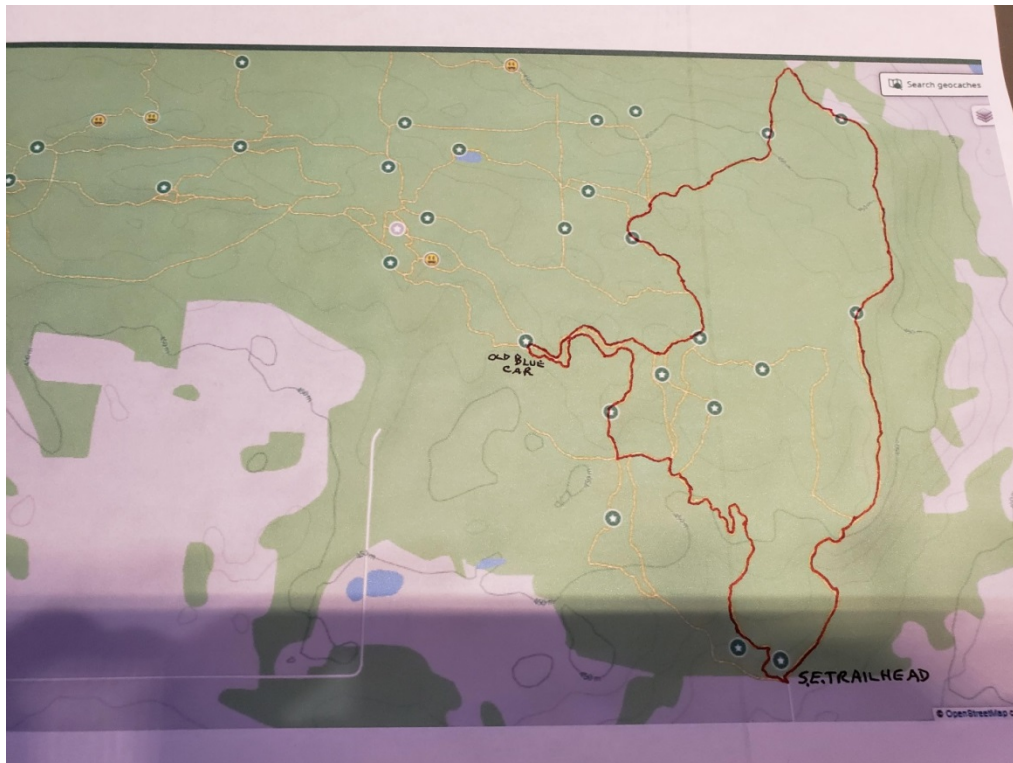
What a great way to celebrate the day. Thanks for organizing the hike and leading the pack. (Only 5 ticks - 2 in the washing machine, after the wash, and still alive.)

Shannon

'Serene experience'

Thanks James for conducting and guiding us into a memorable hike. Would love to be part of future endeavors.

Christian



The Route.