

# The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

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Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts  
<http://naturalist-club.org/>

## J A N U A R Y t o M A R C H 2 0 0 6 SCHEDULE · OF · ACTIVITIES

### J A N U A R Y

|           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Saturday  | 14 | An Evening with Naturalists, <i>Hampden</i>   |
| Wednesday | 18 | JANUARY MEETING: Everglades, River of Grass   |
| Wednesday | 25 | Mills, Museums, Mushrooms, <i>North Adams</i> |
| Sunday    | 29 | Winter Beaver Hunt, <i>Blandford</i>          |

### F E B R U A R Y

|           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Sunday    | 5  | Cross Country Skiing at Maple Corner Farm, <i>Granville</i> |
| Saturday  | 11 | Nature in Winter at Mittineague, <i>West Springfield</i>    |
| Wednesday | 15 | FEBRUARY MEETING: Black Bears in Massachusetts              |
| Saturday  | 18 | Northwest Park and Nature Center, <i>Windsor, CT</i>        |
| Saturday  | 25 | Snowshoe Adventure, <i>Russell</i>                          |



### M A R C H

|           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Sunday    | 5  | Woody Plants in Winter, <i>West Springfield</i>                               |
| Sunday    | 12 | Lair Mountain Hike, <i>Tolland, MA</i>  |
| Wednesday | 15 | MARCH MEETING: Investigating Rare Plants of the Commonwealth                  |
| Saturday  | 18 | Bus Trip - American Museum of Natural History, <i>New York City</i>           |
| Saturday  | 25 | Dairy Farm of Distinction: Stew Leonard's Oakridge Farm, <i>Ellington, CT</i> |

### A P R I L

|          |   |                                      |
|----------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 1 | Go Fly a Kite, <i>Westfield</i>      |
| Saturday | 8 | It's a Small World, <i>Westfield</i> |

# NATURALIST'S CORNER



## A Writing Walk

During the 2005 annual weekend retreat at Stump Sprouts, Susan Middleton and Julie Schlobohm led an impromptu 2-hour writing workshop-with a twist: instead of returning from a walk trying to remember ideas and images to write about inside (as nature-writing workshops are often organized), we stopped several times during our silent walk and wrote for about a minute each time. We didn't try for elegance or finished pieces, just quick verbal sketches of what we experienced at each stop. Susan signaled the first three stops to set the rhythm, after which we all were on our own, walking and stopping as individually moved to do so on our way around the 1.25-mile circuit of Meadowlark Trail. After about an hour and a dozen writing stops, we returned to the Stump Sprouts barn, where we spent the second hour in a comfortable circle of easy chairs, reading aloud what we'd written. After each person shared, the rest of us offered thoughtful, enthusiastic comments; we focused on what we enjoyed about the writing, careful at this tender, first-draft stage to avoid criticism. Seven club members participated in the workshop-some professed writers, some not – but everyone enjoyed the process, so Susan and Julie will be offering a similar Writing Walk in the spring. Look for firmed-up details of when and where in the spring newsletter.

In the meantime, look through this newsletter to find prose and poetry developed from notes taken during our writing walk of September 10, 2005. Recurrent images in the written impressions of these various writers reflect the fact the walk was a shared venture.

### QUEEN YELLOW

SEWN ON SLEEVES OF  
WARM AFTERNOON,  
YOU STAND WITNESS.  
WAVES OF  
YELLOW

SPILL ONTO

SEPTEMBER BEACH.  
GOLDENROD,  
YOU YELLOW QUEEN,  
YOU.

WRAP YOUR HANDS  
AROUND HER GOLDEN FINGERS  
TODAY.

WHEN THE BALLAST OF  
NOVEMBER GRAY  
OWNS YOU,  
LISTEN FOR THESE  
YELLOW BEACONS  
WHO PLEAD PATIENCE.

HOPE IS FRUIT  
THAT SITS AT THE END  
OF A VERY TALL STALK

~ by Julie Schlobohm



Brown moth struggling aloft,  
resting.  
Resuming . . .  
and now you've found  
a niche, a nook,  
and think you're safely unnoticed . . .  
Don't worry, we're just paying homage  
and wondering what you're down to in your brownness.

~~~~~  
Blackberries  
Aha, Rubus fruits!  
You're mine, you juicy jewels!

~~~~~  
busy bee, buzzy bee, alight, scramble, quick, suck, off and away!  
--(calm returns)--  
. . . here, there, next one, next one, circle, zoom, buzzy bee, busy bee!

~~~~~  
British soldiers marching as toward  
the future. We know no better.

(Note: British soldiers is a lichen with bright red-tipped stalks.)

~ by John Root

At the beginning of the walk I saw left and right a sea of yellow, of yellow Goldenrod. A light breeze and some trees at the left and behind the mountain. At the right an old stone fence and behind is a dark wooded area. I see some trees with scaly bark. A bee on the yellow rod. A small mound with two stone piles around a wooden pole. . . . I stay on the cut grass trail which makes a left S-curve. Left and right is Goldenrod. Now I come closer to the wooded area on the left. Three very old apple trees. I wonder whether they still can have apples growing? No apples under the tree. But the high grass under the tree is lying down. Maybe deer sleep here at night. Now I reach the edge of the wood where the trail goes along to the left. I pass three old, old maple trees. They look dead, but at the very top are still some leaves. Behind seven young ash trees another old, old maple tree has also some leaves at the upper branches. A rusty electric fence along the wooded area indicates the border of the property.

~ by Ernest Dittmer



Sweet hay-mown path strewn with prickling underfoot,  
a few upstart goldenrod along its way. Long rays  
refracted o'er upslope trees, warming on our backs.

Moss-softened footsteps, downslope to the long shade.

Light touches the further upreach of trees.

Trailing bootlaces.

Small astral flowers in lavender,  
along a tipping stem slightly abreeze.

Underfeather of a hawk upon  
the pathway, widening, dividing, conjoining,

leading downward to a gathering of three.

Folks scattered along the trailhead,  
an apex each of viewpoint outward extending  
till one after the other slips further into the vision ahead,  
stepping out of my own.

Dark underside of rock, dropped in place so long ago,  
a season's outreach of bramble scrabbling overtop.

Apple tree steadies itself, ancient, wide-stanced,  
holding phantom branches aloft, out of our present sight.

Fieldside trunk, fallen half-mast,  
carries inward the sunbeams

to a younger, close-grown woodland round.

A few steps onward, multi-shafted maple, long-lived,  
persists, merely fieldward stems in leaf,

as, down below, wind stirs the fern-green uprising.

In the short view, goldenrod rounds the world.

~ by Debbie Leonard Lovejoy

THE MOON FACING THE SUN—BUT WE SEE ONLY HALF.

IT WAS TWO AND A HALF CYCLES AGO THAT I RETIRED.

~~~ SO MANY CRICKET SOUNDS! COULD I EVER BEGIN TO LEARN THEM ALL?

SOON FROST WILL END THIS GENERATION,

BUT THEIR GENES WILL PERSIST FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

~~~ BLACKBERRIES—HOW I USED TO LOVE THE HIGH BUSHES, AS A KID,

BUT NOW THEY PORTEND FOREST SUCCESSION IN MY BELOVED FIELD, SO I CHOP AT THEM MADLY.

~~~ A FEW FEATHERS IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF SOME BIRD WHO ENDED ITS LIFE RIGHT HERE.

I WILL DIE SOMEDAY TOO. I WONDER WHERE I WILL BE.

~ by Sonya Vickers



### **An Evening with Naturalists, Hampden**

Date and Time: Saturday, January 14 at 7 p.m.

Hostess: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

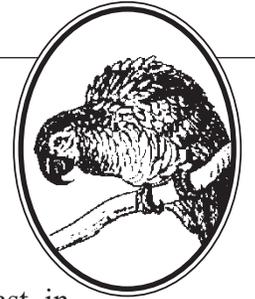
Registration: Space is limited. Please call.

This is the eleventh year in a row for this winter evening gathering for conversation, food and drink, maybe a little observation of the winter sky, and warming by the woodstove. There will be desserts and refreshments to share ~ please let us know if you'd like to bring something along. Directions will be provided when you call to register. Extreme weather cancels.

## JANUARY MEETING

# EVERGLADES, RIVER of GRASS

Wednesday, January 18, at 7:30 p.m.  
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum  
Speakers: Linda Leed and Jack Megas



Most wetlands worldwide are fed by overflowing rivers or by rainfall, into a basin. By contrast, in the Everglades we find a unique wetland ecosystem produced by sheetflow, starting south of Lake Okeechobee (the source of the 1.5 foot deep “river of grass”) and flowing across the sandy peninsula toward the Florida Bay with minimal gradient change. Join us on this midwinter evening as Linda and Jack share the beauty of the Everglades’ many habitats, home to more than 300 species of birds and many endangered animals and plants. We’ll view striking slides of places, birds, the smaller creatures, and alluring flowers, including swamp lilies, in bloom.

Jack and Linda are frequent visitors to wild South Florida, and their presentation will encompass other places beyond Everglades National Park, including Corkscrew Swamp, Sanibel Island, Loxahatchee, and the Florida Keys. They’ll willingly lend their insight into planning your own trip into the out-of-way on a reasonable budget.

### **Mills, Museums, Mushrooms, *North Adams***

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Meeting Place: Town Hall parking lot, Route 8, Becket - Carpool?

Leader: Art O’Leary (789-7274)

Registration: \$10 admission to MASS Moca

Bring: \$10 admission fee, winter attire/accessories, lunch with hot beverages, and water

MASS Moca (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) is housed in a renovated historic factory mill complex. The vast mill complex, consisting of 26 buildings on 13 acres of land, occupies nearly one-third of the city’s downtown business district. Listed in the National Historic Register, MASS Moca, a model of cultural community development, is the largest center for contemporary art in the United States. This mill complex is an extensive interlocking system of courtyards, passageways, bridges, viaducts, elevated walkways, and galleries. 300,000 square feet of developed space, 300,000 of space for storage, and over 100,000 square feet of exhibition space contain 19 natural light galleries exhibiting large works of contemporary art that would not fit into traditional museum galleries. One particular exhibit, entitled *Becoming Animal: Contemporary Art in the Animal Kingdom*, was designed by 13 internationally known artists and explores the shifting boundaries between animal and human. MASS Moca fosters and presents new works of the highest quality in all media and in all phases of production.

After a BYO lunch, relocate to the Delftree Shiitake Mushroom Farm. Delftree Corporation grows shiitake mushrooms year round inside of a 19th century mill building. Delftree has been growing mushrooms since 1979 and each week produces 8,000-10,000 pounds of shiitake mushrooms. Shiitake (*Lentinula edodes*), grown in sawdust amended with grain, is a white rot basidiomycete which digests cellulose and lignin. During an educational presentation by staff biologist Audrey Werner, we shall see the growth phases of shiitake, learn how they grow and are marketed, and hear about the health benefits of these mushrooms. You will have an opportunity to purchase some fresh shiitake right at the farm.

### **Winter Beaver Hunt, *Blandford***

Date and Time: Sunday, January 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Meeting Place: Blandford Post Office – Route 23

Registration: Call Tom and Nancy (564-0895)

Come with us on an exploration of beaver ponds. We will carpool over to Gibbs Road in Blandford and walk short distances from the road. If it’s well frozen, we will hike across the pond to see a few lodges and a dam. We’ll view and discuss beaver behavior, successional changes beaver alterations produce, native and exotic plant species we see, winter activities of the beaver, and other natural history intrigues as they come up. Dress for the weather. Not strenuous, but plan to walk on ice.

Crickets go silent

Leaving holes in the sky  
for cicadas.

The brown grass underfoot  
speaks of the thresher's impatient hand  
or was it a tractor? The cicadas  
pull brown thoughts out of my mind  
leaving only blue sky.

Juniper

blue needles  
in a field soon-to-be haystack.  
If only all my lost possessions were so  
easy to find.

Late Afternoon

The sun no longer shines hard  
but flows through every standing thing—  
apple tree, goldenrod, asters,  
mosquitoes, the wings of dragonflies—  
until it gets to  
my body, which stops it  
like a rock. We are all living  
in the late afternoon.  
The light can only shine  
softly now, and I wonder,  
is it too late  
for us to become transparent  
as we were meant to be?

Goldenrod

You sway like tall buildings  
in a high wind.  
Rich people live  
on the top floors—  
beetles, tiny wasps,  
and honeybees  
who hang from the yellow  
upholstery.

~ by Susan Middleton

“MUSING”

... THEN WHAT AM I DOING HERE IN THE FIELD,  
AND WHAT AM I DOING NEXT AND AFTER THAT AND WHY?  
GOLDENRODS, OLD APPLE TREES, EVEN CRICKETS  
DON'T ASK AND NEED NOT,  
NOR DO THEY KNOW OR CARE TO.  
BUT THE ADVENTURE AND DELIGHT,  
SUSPENTURE AND THE LIGHT  
LEAD ME ON -  
REASON ENOUGH!

~ by John Root

**Cross Country Skiing at Maple Corner Farm,  
Granville**

Date and Time: Sunday, February 5, from 10 a.m.  
to 2 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Meeting Place: Maple Corner Farm, located in Granville  
on Beech Hill Road, off Route 23.

Registration: Call Tom and Nancy (564-0895)

Join us for some cross-country skiing on the extensive  
trail system at Maple Corner Farm. Bring your own skis  
or rent them there. For all levels of skiing ability. Ski as  
a group or split off and ski the trails of your choice at your  
own abilities. Bring a lunch, or get something to eat at the  
snack bar. Treacherous travel weather will cancel. Fees:  
\$10 for trail pass; additional \$10 to rent ski equipment.

**Nature in Winter Walk at Mittineague,  
West Springfield**

Date and Time: Saturday, February 11, from 10 a.m.  
to noon

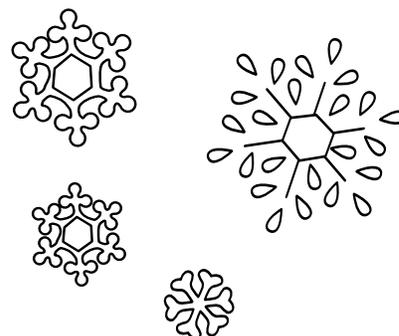
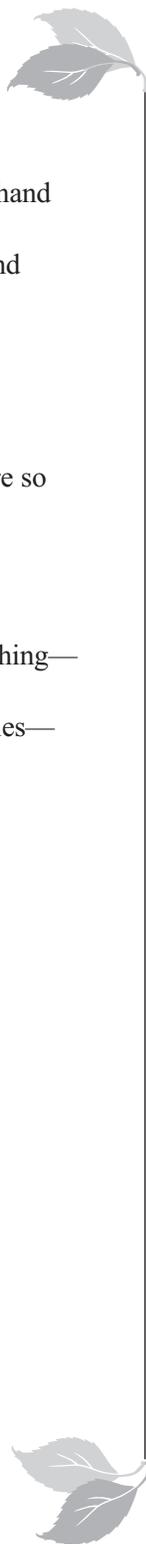
Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (788-4125)

Registration: Call Dietrich to register. Limited to 20  
participants.

Meeting Place: Main entrance to Mittineague Park in  
West Springfield (off Route 20).

Winter is the season when nature appears to slow down:  
Leaves have fallen from the trees, plants are dormant,  
and many animals appear to be hibernating. The familiar  
sounds of spring and summer are gone. How plants,  
insects, animals and birds survive the challenges of winter  
will be one focus of our walk. In addition, we will try to  
detect patterns of life which are not clearly visible: Are  
bears really hibernating? Have all the insects died?  
Where are the snakes, frogs, and salamanders? Are plants  
as lifeless as they appear? And what's really going on  
beneath that blanket of snow? We may be surprised to  
find that there's more life and vitality to winter than meets  
the eye.

Participants should dress warmly, wear good, warm  
footwear, and pack a snack. The outing will last about 2  
hours. All ages are welcome. Pets should be left at home.



## FEBRUARY MEETING

# BLACK BEARS in MASSACHUSETTS



Wednesday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m.  
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum  
Speaker: Jim Cardoza

Jim Cardoza, a wildlife biologist working with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, has been black bear and wild turkey project leader since 1969-70. Jim's presentation will cover the history of the black bear in the state, including a brief history of land use changes and impacts on other wildlife populations, the inception and progress of the continuing black bear field study, and the biological characteristics and life history of the black bear in Massachusetts. He'll also speak about current management programs, black bear depredations (plundering) and conflicts with people, and how human attitudes and interests affect black bears and black bear management.

### **Northwest Park and Nature Center, Windsor, CT**

Date and Time: Saturday, February 18, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm

Meeting Place: Intersection/triangle - Route 75 and Prospect Hill Road in Windsor, CT (Take Route 91 to Exit 38, then Route 75 North. Prospect Hill Road is on the left, north of Marshall Phelps Road and south of Timothy Terrace.)

Leader: Art O'Leary (789-7274)

Northwest Park is a 473-acre multi-use recreational park owned by the town of Windsor, Connecticut. This park features more than ten miles of marked trails (braille, hiking, jogging, and cross-country skiing), some with companion self-guided brochures. There are several sheltered picnic areas, a playground, a maple sugar house, animal barn, and playing fields. At the hub of the park is an interpretive Nature Center that houses a dozen live animals. In addition, the Nature Center has seasonal exhibits, nature library, gift shop, Discovery Room, and touch tables. Staff Environmental Educator Kate Ferris-Morrell will guide us through the Nature Center, then out into wide open spaces of the softwood forest, by pond and bog, seeking bluebirds, turkey, and deer as we explore this wonderful town park.

Bring winter hiking attire/accessories, optics, hot beverages, water, and high-energy snacks.

### **Snowshoe Adventure, Russell**

Date and Time: Saturday, February 25, from 10 a.m. to midafternoon

Leader: Dave Gallup (525-4697)

Meeting Place: Westfield State College Commuter Parking Lot, Western Avenue, Westfield

Join us for a great adventure on a winter day – the ancient art of snowshoeing. We hope the snow will be deep enough to easily transverse atop the surface as we explore the winter fields and forest of the Noble View area. No experience necessary: Dave will show you how simple it is to walk with snowshoes. We are sure to see animal tracks and hopefully wildlife and birds as we snowshoe through the forest. Dave has four extra pair of snowshoes for those who may need them.

If there is a lack of snow, we will hike! Rain cancels. Call Dave with any questions.

### **Woody Plants in Winter, West Springfield**

Sunday, March 5, from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (572-5307)

Place: Mittineague Park, West Springfield  
(Meet at the kiosk just off Route 20.)

Registration not necessary

Many trees and shrubs can be identified in winter condition by using bark and bud characteristics which are sometimes not as obvious in the summer “when the leaves are present to confuse the issue.” For deciduous trees (those losing their leaves in the autumn), knowing a half dozen or so genera (maple, birch, oak, hickory, ash, cherry) makes it possible to identify most trees in a southern New England woodland, even in winter. We'll walk some of the easy hiking trails in the park and learn how to recognize trees such as those listed above, a few others, and also some shrubs. Watch the weather, paying special attention to whether or not some thawing has occurred – some trails in the woods, might still be snow-covered or wet, depending on recent weather.

## Lair Mountain Hike, Tolland

Date and Time: Sunday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895)  
Meeting Place: Blandford Post Office – Route 23

Join us in Tolland State Forest to hike the Lair Mountain trail as we look for early signs of spring. This trail, on the south end of Otis Reservoir, winds through beautiful hardwood as well as hemlock forests. The trail has some rocky sections and may be wet and muddy this time of year or may still have snow – come prepared with proper footwear. Expect inclines. Bring a lunch and drinking water.



A baby hemlock in the middle of the field?  
Now that's strange! I thought they preferred shade. But there are three separate trunks, sisters who stuck it out together.

The giant of a tree has seen field on both sides of the fence but now the downhill side has a crowded crop of teenage maples competing for the same sunshine this giant once had a monopoly on. Life – can be cruel with that competition – even in ultra slow motion.

~ by Sonya Vickers

SHADOWS. GOLDENROD. LICHEN AND FERN.  
WE SPREAD OUT ON THE PATH, FIVE WOMEN AND TWO MEN,  
ARCHING OUR WAY, SKIRTING THE MEADOW.  
TOO MUCH IN THE PACK. NEED TO UNWEIGHT.  
PEER DEEP INTO THE SPACE BETWEEN TREES.

~~~

MOVING, WE ARE MOVING. CRUNCH, SNAP. THORNS.  
WOODPECKER HOLES AND GREEN APPLES. PALE TILTED MOON.  
WHAT IF I DIDN'T KNOW THE NAMES OF ANY BIRDS OR TREES?  
"LITTLE BROWN GREY FLUFF". CHIT! THEN GONE.

~~~

NEED TO LIGHTEN THIS PACK, TAKE OUT THE THINGS I NEVER USE  
BUT CARRY JUST IN CASE.

~~~

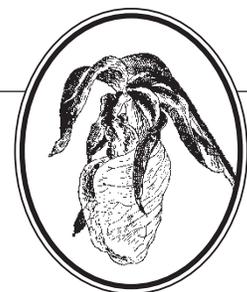
HERE ON THIS MAGNIFICENT HILL, I LET MY SOUL OUT TO PASTURE!

~ by Lesli Scott

## MARCH MEETING

### INVESTIGATING RARE PLANTS of the COMMONWEALTH

Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m.  
Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum  
Speaker: Melissa Cullina, Botanist



The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program collects information on the rare flora, fauna, and communities in Massachusetts in an effort to maintain and safeguard our biodiversity. For plants, there are approximately 250 species (listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern) which this program protects. For the past six years, Melissa has worked on preservation of these rare plant species, both in the field and in other ways. As a Natural Heritage botanist, Melissa studies the ecology and life history of endangered plants, searches for long-lost populations, and develops conservation plans. Tonight she will show slides of this work and share some interesting stories of these botanical investigations.

## Bus Trip - New York's American Museum of Natural History

Date and Time: Saturday, March 18, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Leaders: Dave Gallup (525-4697) and Jack Megas (782-3962)

Registration: Send check payable to the Naturalists' Club c/o Jack Megas at 311 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118

Meeting Place: We will meet at the west end of the Eastfield Mall parking lot by the Sears auto care center, on Boston Road in Springfield. Please call Dave or Jack for detailed directions.

Join us on a bus trip to one of the finest museums in the world. Explore 40 different halls containing 35 million items from the natural world. A spectacular dinosaur exhibit, and gem and mineral specimens await you! See the real Star of India sapphire and a 1300-year-old sequoia tree and much, much more! The museum also houses the Rose Center, a magnificent walkthrough exhibit of our solar system, and many hands-on exhibits along the way. You can also view a high-tech planetarium show (separate admission). In addition, the most in-depth exhibition on Charles Darwin ever mounted is being presented. This exhibition will explore the extraordinary life and discoveries of Darwin, featuring live Galapagos tortoises along with actual fossil specimens collected by Darwin.

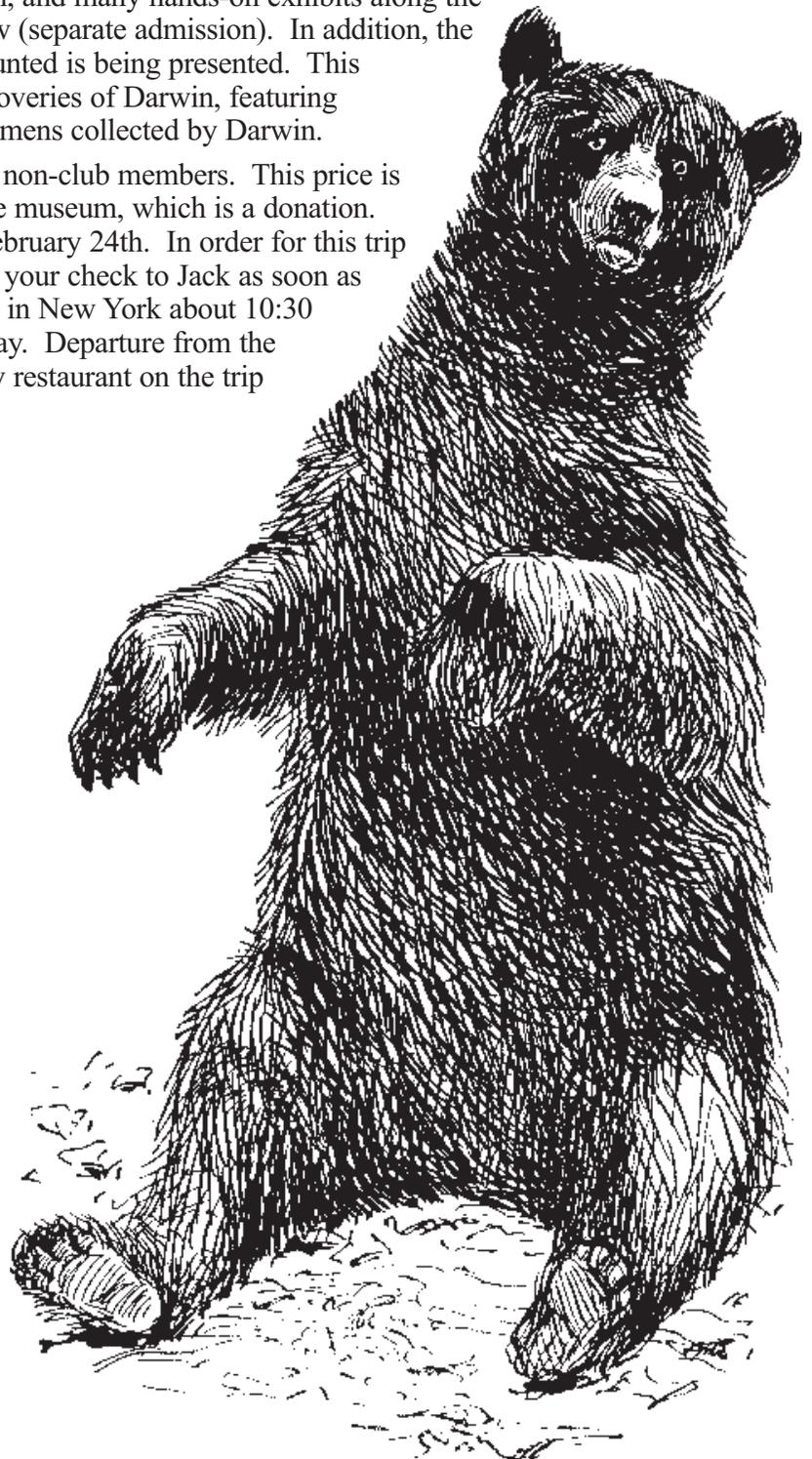
The cost of this trip is \$30 for club members, \$35 for non-club members. This price is only for the bus and does not include admission to the museum, which is a donation. Most importantly, you must send us your check by February 24th. In order for this trip to go we need at least 30 registrations, so please send your check to Jack as soon as possible. We will leave promptly at 7 a.m. and arrive in New York about 10:30 a.m. with a 30-minute rest/breakfast stop along the way. Departure from the museum is at 4:30 p.m., with a dinner stop at a family restaurant on the trip back home and arrival back at the mall about 9 p.m.



IF I WERE A FERN I'D CROWD THE STONES TOO,  
HOPING THE LICHEN WOULD RUB OFF.  
IF I WERE GOLDENROD I'D SWAY TOO,  
TO CATCH EVERY BEE BEFORE IT PASSED BY.  
IF I WERE WILD STRAWBERRIES  
I TOO WOULD CROWD THE STONE  
SURROUNDED BY GOLDENROD BEDECKED  
BY FERNS SO I'D KNOW  
WHEN TO TELL THE PASSING HIKER  
I'M READY TO BE PLUCKED.

PEARLY EVERLASTING—PALE GREEN STALK,  
WHORLS OF FLIPPER LEAVES,  
AND A HEAD OF WHITE BLOSSOMS  
WHICH SIGNALS THE SUN ALL SUMMER LONG,  
THEN DIES—UNLESS PICKED DRY  
BY AN ACQUISITIVE HAND—THAT MUST BE  
HOW IT GOT ITS HUMAN NAME.  
WHY NOT NAME IT FOR ITS LIFE IN THE FIELD?  
CALL IT PEARLS FOR A SUMMER,  
THEN TRAMPLED BY DEER.

~ by Susan Middleton



## **Dairy Farm of Distinction: Stew Leonard's Oakridge Farm, Ellington, CT**

Date and Time: Saturday, March 25, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Place: Town Hall parking lot, Route 140, Ellington, CT

(Take Route 91 to Exit 45, then go east on Route 140.)

Leader: Art O'Leary (789-7274)

Registration: Heavy rain cancels. Call Art before 10 a.m. Saturday, March 25

The Dairy Farm of Distinction Award, started in 1985 by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, is a way of promoting the dairy industry by recognizing outstanding dairy farms. In the past twenty years, 64 farms have received this award, 38 of which are still active. In 2005, the sole recipient of this award was Stew Leonard's Oakridge Farm in Ellington, CT (just south of Somers).

Oakridge Farm, owned by the Bahler family, consists of 1700 acres in the towns of Ellington and Somers, CT. The sprawling farm maintains 2,300 animals, raises their own young stock in incremental aged housing, uses only natural feeds, maintains herd health with the services of licensed veterinarians, and milks 1,300 Holsteins three times per day. Each day, Oakridge Farm ships 90,000 pounds (just over 11,000 gallons) of fresh milk to the Stew Leonard's Farm Fresh Foods processing plant in Norwalk, CT. Maintaining state and federal standards for cleanliness while being a good steward and a good neighbor has earned Oakridge Farm this year's Dairy Farm of Distinction Award and the New England Green Pastures Award.

This outing will be led by accomplished speaker and tour guide, farm manager David Hartford. Join us this day as we learn how the amazing dairy cow converts green grass into white milk. Bring boots for mud season, cameras, rain gear, and snacks.

## **Go Fly a Kite, Westfield**

Date: Saturday, April 1, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Place: Playing fields at Stanley Park, Western Avenue, Westfield. Please call to clarify meeting place.

Bring your kite to Stanley Park in Westfield and let it soar in the March wind. This is exhilarating for all ages. Ever get frustrated with kite flying? Come along for hints on getting the kite into the sky and keeping it there. Have you ever seen a stunt kite perform?

Please call Sonya by Friday, March 30, in case weather (including forecasts for no wind!) should cancel this outing.

## **It's a Small World, Westfield**

Date and Time: Saturday, April 8, starting at 10 a.m.

Meeting Place: Stanley Park, Western Avenue, Westfield (Driving from Westfield center, pass the first park entrance and the playing fields on your left, then take the second entrance and park in that lot.)

Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

We have all enjoyed the natural beauty of things which exist on the same scale as we do ~ the birds, wildflowers, trees, and mammals. A whole realm of natural beauty, though usually too small for us to notice, exists in the small world we come in contact with every day. We will be taking a walk through the park and collecting objects to investigate for their hidden beauty. Field microscopes will be used for the outdoor walk and lab microscopes will be used when we come indoors. No experience is necessary.

Please call by Friday, April 7 to reserve your microscope and to find out just where we're gathering.

BOULDERS UPTHrust ON END, SPRUCE-ROOTED,  
TIGHTLY ANCHORED, YET FREESTANDING AMONG JUNIPER,  
SPIKY GREY-GREEN HOLDOUT OF OVERGROWN PASTURELAND.  
WHILE WALL STONES, LICHEN-MELDED TO THE AGES,  
LINE THE OVERSHADING FOREST EDGE,  
INTRIGUING THE EYE AWAY FROM GOLDENROD AFIELD.  
DIMINUTIVE YET, THE FOREST TIPTOES OUT ~  
PINE SAPLING, BLUE-GREEN NEEDLED FOUNTAIN,  
STRAIGHT ARROW SPRUCELING THE BRIGHTER.

~ by Debbie Leonard Lovejoy



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## BYLAWS REVISION

This fall the Board of Directors has worked out a revision of the Naturalists' Club Bylaws, to be presented to the membership for a vote at the January 18, 2006 meeting. We will have a copy of the original and the proposed Bylaws on the table for your inspection before the meeting. The Board believes the revised document reflects how the club actually works today and recommends a vote for the changes.

2005  
2006

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

|                                                                       |                                                                              |                                                                           |                                                                    |                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b><br>David Gallup<br>(413-525-4697)                    | <b>Vice President</b><br>Art O'Leary<br>(413-789-7274)<br>aoleary@wsc.ma.edu | <b>Treasurer</b><br>Dave Lovejoy<br>(413-572-5307)<br>dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu | <b>Corresponding Secretary</b><br>Suzanne Gallup<br>(413-525-4697) | <b>Recording Secretary</b><br>Nancy Condon<br>(413-564-0895) |
| <b>Director</b><br>Tom Condon<br>(413-564-0895)<br>science@condon.net | <b>Director</b><br>Jack Megas<br>(413-782-3962)                              | <b>Director</b><br>Dietrich Schlobohm<br>(413-788-4125)                   | <b>Director</b><br>Sonya Vickers<br>(413-566-3406)                 |                                                              |

## VOLUNTEERS

|                                                            |                                                                        |                                                                                           |                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Publicity</b><br>Belle Rita Novak<br>belle-rita@map.com | <b>Webmaster</b><br>Tom Condon<br>(413-564-0895)<br>science@condon.net | <b>Newsletter Editor</b><br>Debbie Leonard Lovejoy<br>(413-848-2047)<br>drleona@yahoo.com | <b>Layout &amp; Graphics</b><br>Loren Hoffman<br>(413-569-5689)<br>blackdogsims@yahoo.com |
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## M E M B E R S H I P

Here's how to become a member of the Springfield Naturalists' Club: Enclose a check, in the appropriate amount, payable to The Naturalists' Club.

- \$ 15 for a year of Individual or Family Membership
- \$ 25 per year for Supporting Membership
- \$ 50 per year for Sustaining Membership
- \$300 for Lifetime Membership

Mail to Club Treasurer Dave Lovejoy, Biology Dept. Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086-1630. Include your mailing address and phone number.

**The NATURALISTS' CLUB** was founded in 1969 for the purpose of actively promoting knowledge, appreciation, and preservation of our natural environment. It is an all-volunteer non-profit organization. Education is a main focus of **The NATURALISTS' CLUB**. Programming, with an emphasis on local natural history, is designed to create camaraderie among people of diverse interests through experiences deepening their appreciation of nature. Activities are geared to acquaint the layperson, with the natural world, mostly through field trips. Monthly meetings are held at the Science Museum at the Quadrangle, in Springfield, Mass. Most field trips and programs are free.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

September, the month for membership renewal, has come and gone. If you have not yet paid for 2005-2006, please submit your dues at your earliest convenience. You may pay at the next monthly meeting (cash or a check payable to The Naturalists' Club) or send a check to Dave Lovejoy, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086-1630. If you cannot recall when you last paid, ask Dave at the meeting or inquire at [dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu) or call 572-5307. Timely dues payment saves the Club the expense of sending letters. Most members renew at the regular rate, but increasing numbers have been renewing at the Supporting or Sustaining levels.

*Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list, so direct all address changes to him.*



Become a Club Member or  
Renew Your Existing Membership for 2005-2006.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Requests for programs/trips \_\_\_\_\_