



The Naturalists' Club - Dept. of Biology  
 Westfield State University  
 P.O.Box 1630  
 Westfield, MA 01086-1630

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Westfield, MA  
 Permit No. 18

# THE NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts  
[www.naturalist-club.org](http://www.naturalist-club.org)

2 0 1 1

## OCTOBER *to* DECEMBER SCHEDULE *of* ACTIVITIES

### OCTOBER

- 1 Saturday Hubbard River Gorge, *Granville*
- 2 Sunday Nature Journaling, *East Longmeadow*
- 15 Saturday Paddling the Connecticut River through Massachusetts:  
*Northfield to Turners Falls (Section #1)*
- 19 Wednesday OCTOBER MEETING: American Legacy: Our National Parks
- 20 Thursday Fall Stroll Along a Bike Trail, *Southwick*
- 23 Sunday Reading the Ways of Nature, *Monson*
- 29 Saturday Harvard Forest and Natural History Trails, *Petersham*



Moose (*Alces alces*)

### NOVEMBER

- 5 Saturday Alander/Bash-Bish Traverse, *Mt. Washington*
- 12 Saturday Nature Bike Hike, *Easthampton*
- 16 Wednesday NOVEMBER MEETING: Snowy Owls to Saw-Whet Owls
- 17 Thursday Ashley Reservoir, *Holyoke*
- 19 Saturday Shatterack Mountain Hike, *Russell*
- 27 Sunday A Peaked Mountain Hike after Your Thanksgiving Holiday, *Monson*

### DECEMBER

- 4 Sunday Northwest Park Hike, *Windsor, Conn.*
- 10 Saturday An Evening with Naturalists, *Hampden*
- 11 Sunday Annual Late Fall Quabbin Hike, *New Salem*
- 21 Wednesday DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING: Winter Solstice
- 29 Thursday Walking in a Winter Wonderland, *Agawam*



## HOW SMALL CREATURES GET READY FOR WINTER

We are all familiar with how the big things get ready for winter, how the bear hibernates, the warblers migrate south, and the oak trees shed their leaves. My favorite things are the little guys, who because of their small size are more susceptible to temperature fluctuations. They are usually too small to fly to a warmer place so they

must make do with what is here in the New England winter, with the help of their special adaptations.

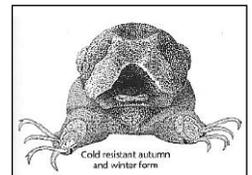
Take for instance the turtle, who has no control over his body temperature and can be seen in summer basking on a log to bring the body temperature higher. In the winter the same turtle will burrow into the mud at the bottom of the pond and stay there until spring. Wait a minute! Turtles have lungs and must breathe air. As the pond freezes over in winter, how does he breathe? Well, since his metabolism slows down, so does the need for oxygen ~ so he simply holds his breath until spring!

A pond seldom freezes to the bottom so our turtle is safe in the mud even though the air above gets much colder. But how do small creatures that cannot burrow into mud keep their cells from freezing? If you have less water in your tissues, there is less to freeze, so many insects spend the winter as very dry eggs or pupae. Yes, we only wish below-freezing temperatures would kill all the mosquito eggs laid last fall, but alas they have a way to survive and hatch in the spring.

Water between cells can freeze without too much harm, but water freezing inside a cell produces ice crystals that pierce membranes, destroying the cell. We know that if our flesh freezes, as in frostbite, those cells may die and the finger or toe may have to be amputated. To avoid this adversity, some insects do what we can't do: direct water out of their cells into the intercellular spaces, and then go a step beyond, producing an anti-freeze ~ glycerol ~ which, like alcohol, remains liquid at much lower temperatures. These insects cannot be active but at least they survive the winter.

And yet I was amazed to see moths flying in the cold weather in the woods of Vermont early one December. They are not supposed to be able to do that! Cold weather should slow their metabolism, making flight muscles unable to function. These turned out to be winter moths, an unfortunate introduction from Europe. The males vibrate their wings in the cold air and, like rubbing two sticks together, heat is produced. A heavy coat of scales insulates against heat loss as he takes to the air in search of the wingless female waiting at the base of a tree. Their fertilized egg will survive freezing and hatch into an early spring caterpillar which then climbs the tree its mother has chosen.

One little guy I really admire is the tardigrade, or "water bear." He is microscopic but multicellular, chubby, resembling a slow-moving koala as he feeds on moss. As long as the moss is wet he will eat. When conditions get uncomfortable, the water bear bails water out of its cells and balls up into a desiccated structure called a tun. The record for survival of extreme temperatures for tuns ranges from higher than boiling to  $-200^{\circ}$  C. Tuns can withstand variations ranging from 1200 times atmospheric pressure to a vacuum. Lethal radiation doses for other organisms this guy takes in his stride. The animal has been known to survive ten years in this dry state, and then when water is added, come back to life. Goodness, winter is only a slight challenge! The tardigrade could probably be a space traveler! (Or did it come from space?)



I mentioned that the little guys cannot migrate to escape winter, but there are exceptions to that. We have all heard of the Monarch butterfly that overwinters in only one place outside of Mexico City. They start out flying north but stop to lay eggs on milkweed plants, then die before their northward journey is complete. Their children and grandchildren pick up where they left off, continuing northward and pausing over winter as eggs. Then one generation born in the late fall attempts a flight all the way back to Mexico, or dies trying. One year at our Stump Sprouts gathering, late in the day we witnessed a tree coated with Monarchs, who one by one as the next day warmed let go their hold and flew onward. Was this part of the late fall return flight? These butterflies migrate as a species rather than as individuals, and make the round trip an intergenerational effort. How they manage such a grand scheme with their small insect brains is still a mystery.

Other butterflies, like the Painted Lady, have been known to fly from North Africa to Ireland, sometimes even as far as Iceland. In this instance a single butterfly can cover a distance of 2100 miles! Ladybugs also migrate, by climbing or descending mountains in the West. But most of our small things stay right here and, through adaptations that include anti-freeze, dealing with cellular water, and behavioral patterns, manage to survive until spring. As you hike, look for insect pupae, egg masses, or larvae under bark. They are still alive, only slowed down, awaiting warmer weather.

~ Sonya Vickers ~

OCTOBER

**Hubbard River Gorge, Granville**

Saturday, October 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill (533-2153)

Meeting Place: Dunkin' Donuts parking lot, Southwick, on Route 10/202.

Come explore the Hubbard River Gorge! On this walk/hike, we'll explore the Hubbard River Gorge in Granville State Forest, Granville, formerly the hunting and fishing grounds of the Tunxis Native Americans. In 1749 the first white settler in the area, Samuel Hubbard, made his home along the banks of the river that now bears his name.

This pristine, high-quality waterway is home to one of Massachusetts' native fish species, the brook trout. The Hubbard River begins its journey to the sea in the hills surrounding Cobble Mountain, then drops 450 feet over some 2.5 miles as it makes its way to Barkhamsted Reservoir in Connecticut. For much of its course the river flows through Granville State Forest, an underappreciated jewel among Western Massachusetts state forests. We'll walk along a gated forest road and follow the river south toward Connecticut. When we've had our fill, we'll go back the way we came. Wear sturdy footwear, and bring along something to eat and drink if you wish.

**Nature Journaling, East Longmeadow, Heritage Park**

Sunday, October 2, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406) Call to register.

Nature journaling is an activity ideally suited to helping people appreciate the details of nature around them. Before cameras, explorers like Lewis and Clark had only their pen and pencil to record new plants and animals found on their trek across the continent. Today nature journaling offers the naturalist an opportunity and means to closely observe and record the world outdoors. You do not have to be an artist or even know how to draw. We will be looking at small, easily sketched details we find on the site. I have found that looking long enough at an object in an attempt to draw it, one gains a lot of insight in the process.

You should bring an unlined sketchbook, small enough to be carried on hikes but large enough to allow you to draw comfortably. Mine range from 7x10" to 5x8". Include a pencil and a good eraser and any art supplies you'd like. A small digital camera might be useful. I will supply colored pencils, pens and watercolors and magnifying devices. We will be sitting at picnic tables under a roof, so only severe weather will cancel. Please call Sonya at 566-3406 to register.

**Paddling the Connecticut River through Massachusetts: Northfield to Turners Falls (Section #1)**

Saturday, October 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call 564-0895 to register

Meeting Place: Pauchaug Brook Boat Launch in Northfield, Mass. on Route 63

Directions: Pauchaug Brook Boat Launch is about two miles north of where Route 10 joins Route 63 and just before Route 10 turns east. From Route 63, turn west at the Mass. Fish & Wildlife Pauchaug Brook sign and drive 0.75 miles to put-in.

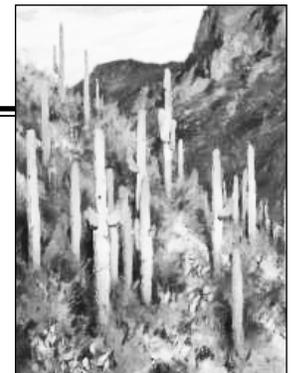
Want to paddle the length of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts? Join in the first of this series of paddling downriver in six segments. To start off, we'll be putting in at the northernmost river access in the state. After a shuttle, we'll paddle 14.5 miles south to Barton Cove, our take-out. Along the way, we'll pass by Bennett Meadow Wildlife Management Area; check out Munn's Ferry, a wonderful picnic and camping site accessible only by boat; see Northfield Mountain's pumped-storage facility and riverboat dock; go through the French King Gorge; and finally, squeeze through The Narrows into Barton Cove. Our time floating downriver will be ripe for seeing swallows, shorebirds, and other waterbirds. This section too is of great geologic interest: a rift ~ where our continent nearly pulled apart ~ is easily seen.

Bring your canoe or kayak and all paddling gear, lunch and drink. Binoculars, camera, and other fun things are always welcome.

**OCTOBER MEETING**

**AMERICAN LEGACY: OUR NATIONAL PARKS ~ ON LOCATION WITH THE PLEIN-AIR PAINTERS OF THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE**  
Wednesday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Without landscape painters like Thomas Moran and Albert Bierstadt, our nation would not have had the vision to set aside such spectacular natural treasures as the geysers and towering waterfalls of Yellowstone as our first national parks. We will visit the D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts (across the Quadrangle from the Science Museum) to view the plein-air ("outdoors") paintings by current artists, captured in natural light on location at various national parks. Helping us to enjoy and understand this special exhibit will be a staff member of the Art Museum.



*Matt Smith's "Transient Light," painted at the Saguaro National Monument in Arizona*

OCT.-NOV.

**Fall Stroll along a Bike Trail, Southwick**

Thursday, October 20, at 9 a.m.  
 Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

A fall weekday morning seems an ideal time to appreciate a vision of five middle students, back in 1994, made reality: improving this abandoned Conrail railbed for use as a hike/bike trail. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

**Reading the Ways of Nature, Monson**

Sunday, October 23, from 1 to 3 p.m.  
 Leader: Kevin Kopchynski (267-4757)  
 Location: Miller tract of Peaked Mountain

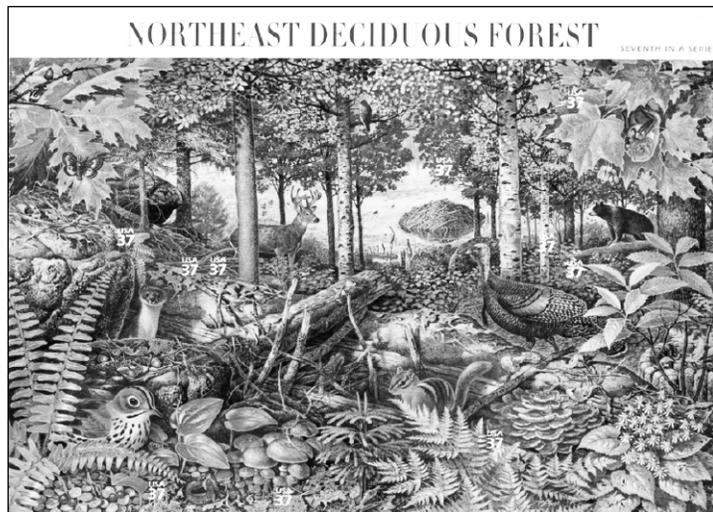
We will explore the area, looking for the various stories the land tells us, from deep geologic history up to recent human activity. Call Kevin for directions and further information. Heavy rain will cancel.

**Harvard Forest and Natural History Trails, Petersham**

Saturday, October 29, at 9 a.m.  
 Leader: Dave Gallup (525-4697)  
 Meeting Place: Crystal Springs Plaza, near junction of Routes 9 and 202, Belchertown

The Harvard Forest, one of the oldest and most intensively studied forests in North America, was established in 1907. Join us for a visit to the Fisher Museum, which showcases dramatic dioramas depicting the land use change from colonial to present time. In the afternoon we will hike a natural history trail through "John Sanderson's Farm," part of the 3,000-acre Harvard Forest. The interpretative trails loop through a mix of hardwoods, white spruce, and white pine.

Bring a lunch and beverage. Proper footwear is recommended. Please call to register and for more details. Rain cancels.



*Nature of America: Northeast Deciduous Forest  
 From: Harvard Forest Site Featured in U.S. Stamp*

**Alander/Bash-Bish Traverse, Mt. Washington**

Saturday, November 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Leader: Bill Fontaine

Meeting Place: Friendly's parking lot, Great Barrington, Mass., on Route 7 just north of the Route 23 intersection  
 Registration: Call Bill (533-2153)

This remote area has been described as one of the most beautiful and ecologically significant regions in the Northeast, and views from the summit of Alander Mountain are well worth the effort it takes to get there. The Nature Conservancy has called the mountain one of the nation's "Last Great Places." On this strenuous 6.5-mile traverse, we'll climb to the summit of Alander Mt. on the western escarpment of the Taconic Range to enjoy views overlooking the Harlem Valley and Catskills to the west, Mt. Everett to the north, and Mt. Frissell and Bear Mountain to the east and south. Afterward, we'll continue north on the South Taconic Trail along Alander's open crest, an especially scenic section. Our journey will then take us over the northern shoulder of Bash-Bish Mt. for the steep descent to Bash-Bish Gorge and back to the shuttle cars.

Dress in layers, wear sturdy footwear, and bring along something to eat and drink. Bring poles, too, if you have them. The descent to the gorge is steep!



*View from the Summit atop  
 Bash Bish Falls*

**Nature Bike Hike, Easthampton**

Saturday, November 12, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
 Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (788-4125)

Registration: Registration is required. Please call Dietrich  
 Meeting Place: With your bike, at Flaherty Park in Easthampton, at the intersection of Pleasant Street and Ferry Street at the northern end of Mill Pond.

Our nature bike hike will take us through a variety of habitats. We will begin by riding the newly opened spur of the Manhan Bike Trail. From there we will ride through the Arcadia Meadows on a hard-packed dirt road. This is a great area for viewing birds. We will then take a break at the Arcadia Visitor Center, and then connect to the original Manhan Bike Trail.

This is a loop bike hike which will bring us back to Flaherty Park. Of course, we will stop at times to explore whatever gifts Mother Nature offers us. Call Dietrich for more details, directions and information.

Our wood-lots, of course, have a history, and we may often recover it for a hundred years back, though we do not . . . Yet if we attended more to the history of our lots we should manage them more wisely  
 ~ Henry David Thoreau ~

NOVEMBER

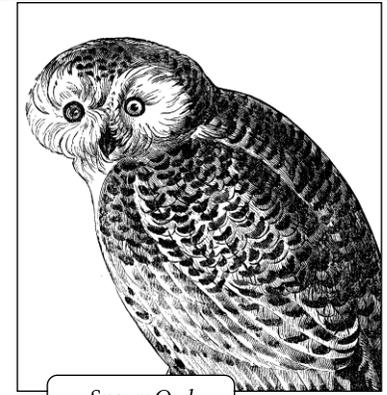
**NOVEMBER MEETING**

**SNOWY OWLS TO SAW-WHET OWLS**

Wednesday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Presenter: NORMAN SMITH

Since 1981 Norman Smith, Director of Mass. Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum and Environmental Education Center in Milton, Mass., has spent countless days and nights observing, capturing, and banding snowy owls at Boston's Logan Airport. He has also rehabilitated many injured birds and successfully fostered over 1,000 orphaned hawk and owl chicks into adoptive nests. Norman's research work has been published in National Geographic, Mass. Wildlife, Yankee, Ranger Rick, and many other publications. His mission is to use the information gathered from his research to stimulate a passion in everyone he meets, to help us better understand, appreciate, and care for the world in which we live.



Snowy Owl  
*Nyceta scandiaca*

**Ashley Reservoir, Holyoke**

Thursday, November 17, at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Stroll along this scenic trail that rambles round and about various ponds, lovely all year round, even in November's subdued palette. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

**Shatterack Mountain Hike, Russell**

Saturday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call 564-0895 to register, so if bad weather forces cancellation we can contact you.

Meeting Place: Westfield State commuter parking lot

Rising up over the village of Russell is Shatterack Mountain. The views from the peak offer spectacular vistas of the Westfield River and the surrounding mountains. After a hike up on a rocky but wide pathway, we'll hike the ridge for two peaks. A short but steep trail descends to Shatterack Brook, which we will trace back to near its source on the mountainside. Stopping along the trail, we will discuss signs of reforestation from past fire, fall tree identification, and strategies of wildlife as they prepare for the coming winter.

This 1.8-mile hike is for experienced hikers. In places, the going can be rough. Although we will travel at a casual pace, there will be times when significant elevation is gained and lost in a short distance. Please wear appropriate footwear, dress for the weather, pack a lunch, and carry plenty of water. A hiking stick may be in order.

I have given myself up to nature; I have lived so many springs and summers and autumns and winters as if I had nothing else to do but live them, and imbibe whatever nutriment they had for me; I have spent a couple of years, for instance, with the flowers chiefly, having none other so binding engagement as to observe when they opened; I could have afforded to spend a whole fall observing the changing tints of the foliage. ~ Henry David Thoreau ~

**A Peaked Mountain Hike after Your Thanksgiving Holiday, Monson**

Saturday, November 27, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697)

Meeting Place: Burlington Coat Factory at the shopping mall, Allen and Cooley Streets, Springfield

Join us and walk off those calories from that Thanksgiving dinner! We will start by hiking to the summit of Peaked Mountain, with its incredible vistas of the valley below. At the summit you can see all the way to Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire!

This is a moderately strenuous hike. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Sturdy hiking shoes are recommended, and don't forget your binoculars! Rain cancels.

**Laughing Brook, Hampden**

For any program, Naturalist Club members may call Kevin Kopchynski at 267-4757 for info, but registration with Arcadia is required. Call 800-710-4550.

**Nature Photography Workshop:** Sunday, September 25 and October 2, from 1 to 5 p.m. each day. A two-part workshop covering the basics of exposure and capture of nature subjects. The class meets at Hampden Town Hall for a classroom session and then moves to field work at the sanctuary.

**Third Saturday Nature Walk Series:** Each session runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This series is intended for families with children, but adults do sometimes come on their own.

- October 15: Squirrels and Chipmunks
- November 19: Nature's Harvest
- January 21: Animal Tracking
- February 18: Animal Tracking

**Winter Tree Identification,** with Patti Steinman. Saturday, November 12, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

When the woodpeckers visit your woods in great numbers, you may suspect that it is time to cut them. ~ Henry David Thoreau ~

DECEMBER

**Northwest Park Hike, Windsor, Conn.**

Sunday, December 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Leader: Sheila Croteau

Registration: Please call Sheila at 732-7254 or or e-mail her at sheilacroteau@aol.com to register, so if bad weather forces cancellation we can contact you.

Meeting Place: McDonald's Restaurant on Rt. 75, across from Bradley Airport

Join us for an easy hike in this beautiful town park. There are 473 acres with over 12 miles of marked hiking trails. There are hikes along open fields, softwood forests, wetlands, ridges, ponds, and along the Rainbow Reservoir on the Farmington River. There is a nature center, gift shop, and animal barn to visit after our hike. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring water and a snack or lunch to enjoy there after our hike.

**An Evening with Naturalists, Hampden**

Saturday, December 10, starting at 7pm

Hostess: Sonya Vickers

Registration: Please call for directions (566-3406)

Come join fellow naturalists on a winter's evening for conversation, food, drink, and the warmth of friendship

around the fireplace. There will be desserts and refreshments to share, so let us know if you would like to bring something along. Also, if you like, you can bring an object, picture or story you'd like to share with the others. Directions will be provided when you call to register. Extreme weather cancels.

**Annual Late Fall Quabbin Hike, New Salem**

Sunday, December 11, starting at 10 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697)

Meeting Place: Crystal Springs Plaza, near the junction of Routes 9 and 202, Belchertown

It's that time of the year again, folks! Our destination is Gate 15, which takes us on a wonderful loop hike with great views of the northern section of the Quabbin. Lots of stone walls and farm sites. There is a chance of seeing eagles and perhaps hear loons! We have seen moose tracks on the sandy beaches. It's a great hike and one of the most beautiful areas to explore.

Bring your lunch, hot drinks, and binoculars. Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes. If you arrive early at the meeting place, you may enjoy a hearty breakfast at Hawley's Restaurant. See you there! Please call to register. Rain cancels.

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY SOLSTICE MEETING**

Wednesday, December 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

Presenters: You!

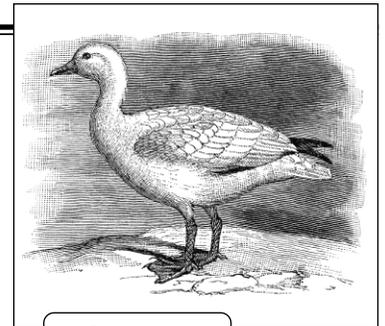
Emcee: Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Our annual holiday meeting is an opportunity for you to share your most memorable and interesting nature and travel experiences with other club members. Have you visited someplace you would recommend to others? Do you have photos of Naturalists' Club events from this past year? We want to hear from you. Show us some of the highlights, by way of slides, PowerPoint, or photo album. Presentations may be no longer than 10 minutes in length.

Another type of presentation can be a table display of intriguing objects or pictures, and we'll see if we can get other club members to figure out "What IS That?" and use the group's combined wisdom to answer some nagging nature questions. So bring artifacts or natural treasures to show off in the nature displays even if you know exactly what they are.

Part of the fun, too, is sharing each other's wonderful holiday treats. Bring a holiday dessert to share during the social hour.

Let's celebrate the holidays together! Please call Nancy to get on the roster for presentations.



Snow goose

**Walking in a Winter Wonderland, Agawam**

Thursday, December 29, at 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Depending on the depth of snow, snowshoes could be an advantageous option as we head in for the woody winter trails of Robinson State Park! Please call to register and for meeting place. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

Most plowed fields are quite bare, but I am surprised to find behind the walls on the south side... a solid column of snow six or eight feet deep. The wind, eddying through and over the wall, is scooping it out in fantastic forms,--shells and troughs and glyphs of all kinds.  
~ Henry David Thoreau ~

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Great Smoky Mountains Naturalists' Club Wildflower Pilgrimage ~ Coming Up!

Saturday, April 14, to Saturday, April 21, 2012

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Nancy or Tom (564-0895). We will need you to send a deposit securing your reservation so we can proceed with arrangements.

Cost: Approximately \$1,100, including airfare from Hartford, lodging, local transportation, and programming. This is an approximation.

Back due to popular demand and because the Smokies are just a great place to be in the spring, the Naturalists' Club Wildflower Pilgrimage will once again take place. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a world-renowned preserve of wildflower diversity. There are over 1,500 species of flowering plants there, unrivaled in any temperate zone preserve of its size or larger in the world. Our trip is scheduled for the height of wildflower season.

Plans include hiking the best wildflower trails in the park, visiting the upper elevation spruce-fir forest, listening to Appalachian music and storytelling, touring historic Cades Cove, and much more. Emphasis is on learning about the wildlife, wildflowers, and wonders of the southern Appalachians. Besides Tom and Nancy, we will have guest specialists share their expertise. It will be an active and full week.

Nancy is former Adult Program Director at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, the Smokies' environmental education center. She led wildflower classes and hikes for Tremont guests throughout the Smokies. She worked with botanists in the park on rare and endangered plant and pollination studies. Tom is a former National Park Service Ranger based in Cades Cove. For years he developed and conducted talks and hikes and evening presentations for park visitors. He also was instrumental in developing the Parks as Classrooms coursework for schoolchildren. He has co-authored two books about the park, *Hiking Trails of the Smokies* and *Wildflowers of the Smokies*. For seven years the park was Tom and Nancy's backyard.

Your fee will cover transportation (airfare from Hartford to Knoxville, Tennessee), van rental and gas, lodging in cabins, program fees for guest presenters, and your own wildflower guide, personally signed by the author! Fee is based on ten participants. Must have at least eight for the trip to go. Please call early to register so we can secure the best airfare rates. Come on along!

## STATE LANDS TOURS: HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Professional foresters and wildlife biologists from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will host a series of tours this summer and fall to discuss state forestry and wildlife habitat management practices.

“Both grassland and shrubland habitats have declined dramatically throughout the Commonwealth over the past century, and native plants and animals associated with these open habitats have declined as well, sometimes at alarming rates,” said DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin. “We encourage people to attend one or more of these events to learn how active habitat management bolsters native wildlife populations.”

“The Patrick-Murray Administration is interested in engaging the public on issues related to forests and welcomes people to share their thoughts, questions and concerns while enjoying a walk in the woods,” said DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr.

The state lands tours will be conducted rain or shine. Participants should wear sturdy footwear and bring bug repellent. Below are two in the Western Mass. area this fall:

### Habitat Management in Hiram Fox Wildlife Management Area, Chester

Thursday, September 29, starting at 6 p.m.

Directions: Meet at the intersection of Ireland Street and Ireland Street Extension. From Route 112 in South Worthington, turn east on South Ireland Street. Follow South Ireland Street uphill, past Sevanars Concerts site at the old Worthington Academy. Continue to the top of the hill and turn right onto Ireland Street Extension.

Walk through portions of an active hayfield and adjacent areas of reclaimed abandoned fields to learn about and discuss active habitat management for native shrubland birds in need of conservation. Biologists will also discuss ongoing invasive plant control efforts at the site.

### Habitat Management in Southwick Wildlife Management Area, Southwick

Saturday, October 29, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Directions: Meet at the DFG parking area on the south side of South Longyard Road. From Route 10-202 in Southwick center, turn east on Depot Street and continue for half a mile, bearing right onto South Longyard Road (also shown as Mountain Road on some maps). After 1.2 miles, the Southwick WMA parking area will be on the right.

Walk through portions of a fifty-acre site with some remnant sandplain grassland and meadow habitat, adjacent to overgrown pasture lands that will be reclaimed into managed shrubland habitat to support native shrubland birds in need of conservation.

Just a reminder... Please be mindful of the environment.

- carpool to destinations
- share costs with your driver

~ Thank you ~ Naturalists' Club Board of Directors



# THE NATURALISTS' CLUB 2011- 2012

## FROM THE TREASURER

The fall of the year is the traditional time to renew membership in the Club. Those of you with an "11-12" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label have paid for the coming year. Otherwise, your dues are owed for the year starting September 2011. You may renew by sending a check (payable to The Naturalists' Club) to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA 01086 or by giving the check to Dave at the next monthly meeting. Note: If your address and email address contact information have not changed, the form below need not be completed. We would, however, like your email address if you haven't sent it previously. Thanks. *Please note: Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list. Please direct changes or inquiries to him.*

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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

There are no more beautiful natural parks than these pastures in which the white pines have sprung up spontaneously, standing at handsome intervals, where the wind chanced to let the seed lie at last, and the grass and blackberry vines have not yet been killed by them. *~ Henry David Thoreau ~*

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Name

Address

Phone Number

Email

Requests for programs/trips

Please send information per the above to Club Treasurer Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA 01086.

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.

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### President

David Gallup  
(413-525-4697)  
davesuzy5@hotmail.com

### Vice President

Nancy Condon  
(413-564-0895)  
spiderwoman@russellma.net

### Treasurer

Dave Lovejoy  
(413-572-5307)  
dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu

### Corresponding Secretary

Suzanne Gallup  
(413-525-4697)  
davesuzy5@hotmail.com

### Recording Secretary

Sonya Vickers  
(413-566-3406)  
sonya.vickers@yahoo.com

### Directors

Tom Condon  
(413-564-0895)  
science@condon.net

Bill Fontaine  
(413-533-2153)  
wlf07@comcast.net

Jack Megas  
(413-782-3962)

Dietrich Schlobohm  
(413-788-4125)

## VOLUNTEERS

### Publicity

Leo Riendeau  
(413-739-5546)  
NaturalistsNews@comcast.net

### Webmaster

Tom Condon  
(413-564-0895)  
science@condon.net

### Newsletter Editor

Debbie Leonard Lovejoy  
(413-848-2047)  
drleona@yahoo.com

### Layout & Graphics

Loren Hoffman  
(413-569-5689)  
lkhgrdes@gmail.com