



The Naturalists' Club - Dept. of Biology
 Westfield State University
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THE NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts
www.naturalist-club.org

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APRIL to JUNE SCHEDULE of ACTIVITIES

APRIL	3	Sunday	Wetland Wanderings in Bear Hole Watershed, <i>West Springfield</i>
	9	Saturday	Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill, <i>Orange</i>
	16	Saturday	Graves Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, <i>Williamsburg</i>
	20	Wednesday	APRIL MEETING: New England Cottontails
	21	Thursday	Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge, <i>Longmeadow</i>
	23	Saturday	Waterfall Journey to Sanderson Falls, <i>Chester</i>
MAY	7	Saturday	Spring Wildflower Wanderings in Dufresne Park, <i>Granby, Mass.</i>
	14	Saturday	Connecticut Valley Geology from Mt. Holyoke Hike, <i>South Hadley</i>
	15	Sunday	Paddle the Quinebaug River, <i>East Brimfield</i>
	18	Wednesday	MAY MEETING: Pattern in Nature
	21	Saturday	Forests of Trout Brook, Mohawk Trail State Forest, <i>Charlemont</i>
	21	Saturday	Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center, <i>Conway</i>
	22	Sunday	Hike at High Ledges, <i>Shelburne</i>
26	Thursday	Robinson State Park, <i>Agawam</i>	
JUNE	4	Saturday	Intro Fern Walk, <i>Ware</i>
	12	Sunday	Spring Wildflower Hunt in Mittineague Park, <i>West Springfield</i>
	16	Thursday	Pathway Round the Reservoir, <i>Ludlow</i>
	25	Saturday	Paddle the Ipswich River, <i>Topsfield</i>





CREATING NATIVE BEE HABITAT GARDENS

Our fate is intricately linked to that of our native bees. Consider all the vegetables, fruits, and seeds you count on for nourishment and variety. From our morning coffee to beans and pumpkins in the field, a comprehensive list of the plants pollinated by native bees would be extensive. Our plant diversity without bee-pollinated plants would be slim indeed: grasses, the catkin- and cone-bearing plants and other wind-pollinated plants come to mind. Unfortunately, habitat loss has taken a toll on native bee diversity and numbers. Yet take heart because you, as a gardener, can play an important role in restoring habitat for native bees which will also have positive effects on most other pollinators, including our beloved honeybees.

Native bees are uniquely qualified to take over the mantle from the honeybee. On the job for 250 million years or so, native bees fly earlier in the morning and later in the evening, earlier and later in the season, in cooler and damper weather, and they pollinate more flowers per capita than any other pollinator. Covered in featherlike hairs, they have specialized body parts for carrying the pollen and nectar they feed their offspring. These awesome allies simply need places to eat, work, sleep, and raise their young.

Most all native bees have four basic needs: Nesting and overwintering sites, a diversity of flowers blooming not too far from the nest they've lay eggs in, water, and a pesticide-free environment. Of the 400 species residing in New England, 70% nest and overwinter in the ground. Most of those are solitary nesters and do not sting. The other 30% of our native bees nest and overwinter in woody material.

We can easily provide for the wood-nesters by supplying six-inch lengths of pithy canes harvested from the stems of raspberry, staghorn sumac, and elderberry. Bees find it quite easy to bite out the pithy centers and will lay their eggs in them. The stems of these plants are relatively simple to cut into lengths with a handheld pruning shear, but before I handle the raspberries much, I remove their thorns. Then, as with the other stems, to keep them dry I place them into a container that has one end open. The developing bee larva will stay cozier if you orient the open end eastward. To keep them from cooking in the sun, it is a good idea to give them some shelter under an overhang or the like. Timing is everything, so put your canes out when the skunk cabbage blooms or as early as you can. You can protect your precious cargo from woodpeckers by wintering them in an unheated shed or cold basement.

Another method for attracting wood-nesting native bees is by drilling $\frac{5}{16}$ " holes six inches deep and $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " apart in blocks of wood. Setting them at least three feet above the ground and within 200 feet of their forage plants increases your take. Be careful to clean the holes out after the bees have emerged in spring. Overwinter them in a sheltered, unheated location that protects them from rain and woodpeckers.

For easy digging, solitary ground-nesting bees prefer well drained sun-warmed soil free from roots. They burrow in a diversity of locations, such as embankments, cliffs, long-sloping meadows and roadsides as well as piles of well-drained soil. When piling soil, make sure it contains at least 35% sand. The social bumblebees often take up residence in abandoned rodent tunnels and in undisturbed warm spots under rocks or boards. A wooden box lined with upholstery stuffing sitting on the ground, out of the blazing sun, attracts some of them. These boxes need care, too, and cleaning is done after the queens have left in the fall to overwinter in a burrow on their own.

Native bees are generalists and are attracted to forage that includes several colors, like blue, purple, violet, white, and yellow. Various flower shapes, ranging from easily accessible asters and yarrows to deep tubulars like beardtongues and turtleheads, are all suitable. A succession of blooms throughout the growing season, with at least three different plants blooming at once, covers lots of bases. Plant in 4x4' clusters so the pollinator can justify the energy consumed flying to your planting. While it is very helpful to provide native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous flowering plants, they take time to mature. You can fill in the gaps with annuals in all their showy shapes and colors.

So, as you plan your bee gardens, remember that early spring and fall are critical times to have adequate forage available. In the spring willows are loaded with pollen and in the fall bumble queens fatten up on asters and goldenrod. They go into winter fortified and ready to keep warm by shivering against the cold ground. Providing for their return makes a heart warm. Happy bee gardening!

On my website, www.pollinatorswelcome.com, you can find a number of plant lists along with my slide show "We Need Bees and They Us."

~Tom Sullivan ~

Wetland Wanderings in Bear Hole Watershed,

West Springfield

Sunday, April 3, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Leader: Diane Crowell

Registration: Please call Diane (734-8188) to register.

Meeting Place: The parking lot in front of Stop & Shop on Riverdale Road in West Springfield

Bear Hole is a 1700-acre watershed in West Springfield. In the watershed are brooks, vernal pools, beaver ponds both active and abandoned, and swamps. We will investigate some of these wetlands looking for early spring life. Keep your eyes open for turtles, salamanders, frogs and anything else. Waterproof footwear for wading is recommended. The hiking will be mostly flat with some rolling hills, but we will be bushwhacking on uneven terrain too, so poles or hiking sticks will be helpful. Bring a lunch and something to drink and snacks if desired.

Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill,

Orange

Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill (533-2153)

Meeting Place: Florence Savings Bank parking lot at the Stop & Shop Plaza on Route 9 in Belchertown.

This walk will take us along a gated, level paved road, through a variety of habitats on the northern end of Quabbin Reservoir, an area featuring abandoned fields and orchards,

wetlands, plantation plantings, cellar holes, a hand-laid keystone bridge and a variety of wildlife and wildflowers. We'll take our time as we wind our way toward the reservoir some 2.5 miles away. It's an easy in and out, so you can walk the whole 5 miles or any part of it. Wear appropriate footwear and bring along something to eat and drink. We'll linger a bit at the reservoir to take in the view and have lunch.

Graves Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, Williamsburg

Saturday, April 16, from 10 a.m. till noon

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm

Registration: Registration for this trip is a must. Call Dietrich at 788-4125.

Meeting Place: In the Table and Vine parking lot, located on Riverdale Road/Rt. 5 in West Springfield just south of the I-91 overpass. Meet at 9:15 in the parking lot for carpooling. If you are going direct on your own, be sure to let Dietrich know.

Graves Farm is a fairly new Mass Audubon sanctuary encompassing 637 acres of upland forest, old fields, and meadows. The property contains a beautiful mixed forest of pine, oak, and beech. We will also visit an old (perhaps 200 years plus), still active porcupine den. This property is a real gem.

As I walked back toward home, the grouse was drumming on its log and the frogs were tuning up in the little pond. The killdeer were quiet now and the blackbirds had gone to sleep, but I heard the song of the hermit thrush, the clear violin notes that in a little while would make every valley alive with music. Spring in the north was worth waiting for and dreaming about for half the year.

The Singing Wilderness ~ Sigurd F. Olson ~



New England cottontail
(*Sylvilagus transitionalis*)

APRIL MEETING

NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAILS

Wednesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

Presenter: David Scarpitti, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

New England cottontails (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) are the only cottontail species native to New England. Over the past several decades there have been significant declines across Massachusetts in both their population and range. Consequently, the New England cottontail has been identified as a candidate for federal Endangered Species Act listing, with the highest listing priority in the region. The decline of New England cottontail is largely attributed to a lack of suitable shrub lands, old fields, and other thicket type habitats. To combat these declines, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is actively working to create and maintain large acreages of suitable habitat, in concert with other state and federal natural resource agencies. In addition, the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is monitoring existing populations of New England cottontail on an ongoing basis as well as conducting surveys to find new/undocumented populations.

David Scarpitti is the Wild Turkey and Upland Game Project Leader for the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, responsible for conservation and management of wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, bobwhite quail, rabbits and hares and other small game. David works on projects to establish and maintain suitable habitat for species dependent on early successional habitats. Holding degrees in wildlife ecology and wildlife management, over the course of his career David has studied a variety of wildlife ranging from timber rattlesnakes, spotted and Blanding's turtles to moose, deer, and turkey.

Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge, Longmeadow

Thursday, April 21, at 9 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

So many acres of forest, marsh, meadow, and farmland along a major river ~ this varied habitat earns Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge its name as a refuge. Come and enjoy the earliest of plant and animal life peeking out just as springtime is warming up! Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

Waterfall Journey to Sanderson Falls, Chester

Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (Call 525-4697 if you have any questions.)

Meeting Place: Westfield State University commuter parking lot

Join us for a leisurely walk to one of the most enchanting waterfalls in Western Massachusetts. Hiking to the falls, along the way we may see early spring wildflowers and emerging in the beautiful mixed hardwood/hemlock forest. These magnificent waterfalls should be roaring after our long winter!!! You can have your lunch near a crystal pool at the base of the falls. Afterwards for hardy climbers, we will be able to explore an upper waterfall and an old-growth forest. Bring your lunch and sturdy footwear. Rain cancels.

Spring Wildflower Wanderings in Dufresne Park,

Granby, Mass

Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. till 12 p.m.

Leader: Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Meeting Place: Dufresne Recreational Park, Granby, Mass. Turn onto Kendall Street from Route 202. Turn right off Kendall to enter park. Meet in parking lot, by picnic pavilions.

Get a taste of spring in a relatively easy hike on the trails in Dufresne Recreational Park. Be ready for a leisurely hike between 1 and 2 miles, pausing to look for and learn about any spring wildflowers we may see. Learn folklore and usefulness and be willing to share your knowledge about wildflowers too. We'll hike through hemlock woods and along open fields on trails with gentle hills, so it is not rough-going. Bring lunch and a drink ~ we'll eat together at the picnic tables when we complete our hike.

Connecticut Valley Geology from a Mt. Holyoke Hike,

Hadley/South Hadley

Saturday, May 14, starting at 10 a.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Registration: Please call to register. Heavy rain cancels.

Meeting Place: The Summit House atop Mt. Holyoke.

We'll gather at the Summit House on the top of Mt. Holyoke, accessible by road, leaving some cars below so that we can hike one way down the mountain. We'll stop along the trail to appreciate the views of the valley below, shaped by many geological events, from volcanism and mountain building to huge earthquakes and glacial ice. Remnants of this past history can be seen from atop this unusual mountain range running from east to west rather than the typical north-south orientation found elsewhere. Bring a snack or lunch. The downhill trail is under 2 miles.

The movement of a canoe is like a reed in the wind. Silence is part of it, and the sounds of lapping water, bird songs, and wind in the trees. It is part of the medium through which it floats, the sky, the water, the shores.

The Singing Wilderness ~ Sigurd F. Olson ~

Paddle the Quinebaug River, East Brimfield

Sunday, May 15, from 9 a.m. till about 2 p.m.

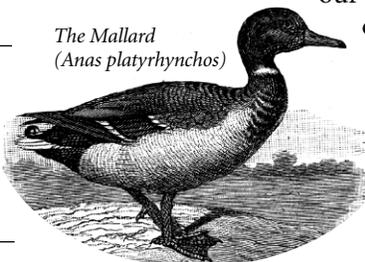
Leaders: Dick and Moreen Kardas (967-5739) 

Meeting Place: Job Lot/Big Y shopping center, Route 32, Palmer (Take I-90/MassPike to Palmer, Exit 8. Go left at the traffic light, onto Route 32North. Take a left at the next traffic light into the shopping center.)

From the meeting spot we will caravan about a half hour to East Brimfield Lake, off Route 20, near the Brimfield/Sturbridge town line. There, parking is generous and we'll put our canoes and kayaks in the lake. After about a half-mile paddle westward on the lake, we'll enter the Quinebaug River. Paddling south, against the current, we'll pass some farmland, but most of the river winds through thick marshes filled with birdlife. We have a chance of seeing turtles, great blue herons, geese, ducks, red fox, deer, turkey, hawks, varied songbirds, and even bald eagles and otter. In 5 miles, we'll find ourselves on Lake Siog (also known as Holland Pond).

After a stop for lunch, we will turn around and paddle from whence we came, going with the flow this time and back to our cars. Total trip distance is about 11 miles. The current is negligible. The water is flat and paddling is generally easy. Novice paddlers are welcome, keeping in mind the distance we'll cover is a good challenge. Bring your boat, life jacket, lunch, drink, camera, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, and sense of adventure.

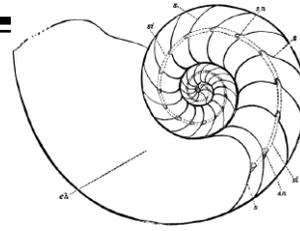
As long as I can remember I have felt I must get out in the sunshine, must feel the wind or the rain in my face, must have the open sky and open visions all around. I cannot stand to be inside for very long especially when the weather is good. *Journal, March 30, 1966 ~ Sigurd F. Olson ~*



MAY MEETING

PATTERN IN NATURE

Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. 
Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium
Presenter: Kevin Kopchynski



Nature provides many delights, among them the diverse patterns we come across on our outside rambles, such as spiral, radial, curving, and symmetric patterns. Geometric principles are not expressed in rigid uniformity in natural phenomena because the workings of biology and geology impart a randomizing quality resulting in wonderful variations on themes of pattern illuminated by light. Discerning photographer Kevin Kopchynski will share these insights using a selection of his photographs, set to music, displaying how these patterns play out in nature.

Kevin is a longtime Western Massachusetts resident, nature/science educator, and computer network administrator. One of his deep areas of interest is where mathematical ideas help form an understanding and description of the natural world. As an avid photographer, he finds photography an ideal medium to combine his technical skills with his love of nature.

Forests of Trout Brook, Mohawk Trail State Forest,

Charlemont

Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m.

Leader: Bob Leverett (584-3017, dbhguru@comcast.net)

Meeting Place: Mohawk Trail State Forest Headquarters. The HQ is 4 miles west of the center of Charlemont, on Rt. 2. Entrance is on the right.

Hike in the Trout Brook region of Mohawk Trail State Forest with the Naturalists' Club's 2010 Environmentalist of the Year award recipient, Bob Leverett. From Bob, learn more about the forest types we'll be hiking through, forest age structures, and forest succession. Small areas of old growth will be explored. We will look at several outstanding white pines and white ashes that push the limits of growth for those species for this latitude. We will check on the champion white ash in upper Trout Brook and obtain an updated measurement of the tree.

The hike will include steep off-trail areas and requires participants to be in good physical condition. Some of the terrain is rocky. The trip will cover between 2.5 and 3.5 miles distance and gain between 500 and 800 feet elevation. The area is extremely scenic but visited by very few people. A real treasure. Bring food, water, study footwear, and a hiking stick if you wish.

I have always believed that fishing for brook trout is a spiritual thing and that those who engage in it sooner or later are touched with its magic.

The Singing Wilderness ~ Sigurd F. Olson ~

prey. Tom's work through the years has given a second chance for birds that have been injured or have fallen on hard times in the wild. Through the years, Tom has released a number of hawks and owls back into the wild. Surely you've seen the educational programs he's given for nature centers, schools, and our Naturalists' Club over the years. This is sure to be an informative and exciting afternoon.

Hike at High Ledges, Shelburne

Sunday, May 22, from 9 a.m. till 12 noon

Leader: Dave Gallup (Call 525-4697 to let us know you are coming.)

Meeting Place: Table and Vine parking lot, Route 5, West Springfield

Enjoy the beauty of the forest and its wildflowers, including the rare yellow ladyslipper, on this moderate two-mile hike. One special treat to look forward to is the breathtaking view from High Ledges, overlooking Shelburne Falls and the valley below. After the hike, we will visit Shelburne Falls, a picturesque New England town known for its "Bridge of Flowers," where if you like, you may take the afternoon to explore its unique shops and beautiful waterfalls. Wear sturdy footwear and bring a lunch. Rain cancels.

A Visit to Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center, Conway

Saturday, May 21, from 12 noon till midafternoon

Leader: Dave Gallup (Call 525-4697 to sign up for this program. Limit 15.)

Meeting Place: Table and Vine parking lot, Route 5, West Springfield

Join us for an exciting and informative day at Tom Ricardi's rehab center in Conway. Tom will introduce us to a number of birds in his care. You will see firsthand his facility and the work he does to rehabilitate many different species of birds of

Robinson State Park, Agawam

Thursday, May 26, at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Take a relatively early morning hike in company of a few veteran birdwatchers at Robinson State Park where, as one observer has noted, "Over 186 species of birds have been seen in the park over the last 50 years of record keeping." Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

Intro Fern Walk at Quabbin, Ware

Saturday, June 4, from 11 a.m. till 12:30 p.m., and optional lunch.

Leader: Malcolm Meltzer (549-6447; heronn08@yahoo.com)

Registration: Please call or email.

Meeting Place: Quabbin Visitors Center (Mass Pike Exit #7, Ludlow, north on Rt. 21 to end, right on Rt. 9 East. Look for State Police/Winsor Dam sign on left, about 2 miles.)

On this walk we will ID ten of the most common ferns. If your focus is wildflowers, don't ignore the ferns! Ferns can add another dimension to your wildflower experience. Easy walk on road. Optional picnic lunch afterward at the Tower, with great views. (An intermediate-level fern walk at Mt Toby is scheduled for July 30. Check the next newsletter.)

Spring Wildflower Hunt in Mittineague Park,

West Springfield

Sunday, June 12, from 9 till 11 a.m.

Leader: Sheila Croteau (732-7254)

Meeting Place: Fife Lane entrance to Mittineague Park on Westfield Street (Route 

Looking for wildflowers we'll hike the woodland trails in Mittineague Park in West Springfield. The park's 330 acres include meadows, a drumlin called Buffalo Mountain, vernal pools, brooks, a frog pond, and is home to many animals including deer, fox, coyote, mink, fishers, and many birds, such as the pileated woodpecker and hawks. We'll climb up the gradual slope of Buffalo Mountain with a view of the Westfield River, look in the meadows for wildflowers, and search for other signs of life in the forest. Be prepared to encounter wet and muddy places, plank bridges, uneven footing, and root-strewn trails. We'll cover about 3 miles. Wear hiking boots. Bring insect repellent, water and a snack.

Pathway Round the Reservoir, Ludlow

Thursday, June 16, at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Take a stroll in the best of company and at a leisurely pace along the water's edge around the Ludlow Reservoir, a scenic, flat course. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

Paddle the Ipswich River, Topsfield

Saturday, June 25, from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Registration: Please Call Tom or Nancy to register.

Meeting Place: Big parking lot of AMC Lanes at the intersection of I-291 and the MassPike.

A popular canoeing river in eastern Mass., the Ipswich River eventually empties into Plum Island Sound. This paddle will follow an intriguing portion of the river through Wenham Swamp, Mass Audubon's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, and Bradley Palmer State Park. We'll enjoy vibrant stands of trees, islands, knolls, glacial deposits and have a good chance of seeing turtles and shorebirds like herons and bitterns. Stream gradient is low, typical of a coastal river, so the current should not be fast. Our put-in will be at the Mass 97 bridge in Topsfield and take-out near Footes Canoe Livery by Ipswich Road. We will take about 3 hours' time on the water and cover about 8 miles.

Take advantage of being near the coast and join us afterward for a fresh lobster and clam meal in Ipswich. Bring all your canoeing gear, including lunch and drink. Don't forget to consider camera, binoculars, sun protection, change of clothes to go out to eat and a spirit of adventure.

NATURE WORKSHOP
SERIES
Stanley Park, Westfield

For further information on the Nature Workshop Series, please call the Stanley Park Office 413-568-9312, ext. 100. All walks and workshops will meet at the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, and will cancel if there is heavy rain.

Signs of Spring, with Arthur O'Leary

Saturday, May 14, from 2 till 4 p.m.

This workshop will search out the early signs of long-awaited spring as you explore the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary, seeking subtle changes in nature transforming from winter into spring apparel. Vernal pools, awakening plants, shrubs, trees, and returning bird and animal species will be discussed. Art will help you complete blooming reports, bird censuses, and phenology charts, and then compare them to past records.

Enjoy the Birds of Spring, with Janice Zepko

Sunday, May 15, from 9 till 11 a.m.

This workshop will focus on identifying birds by sight and sound. We will walk through a variety of habitats in the Frank Stanley

Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary during the height of spring migration, stopping to enjoy both resident songbirds and tropical migrants as they feed and sing. You may encounter as many as fifty different species, including Scarlet Tanagers, and Baltimore Orioles, and several species of warbler. Bring a pair of binoculars for a "bird's eye" view.

Spring Wildflowers, with David Lovejoy

Sunday, May 22, from 2 till 4 p.m.

This workshop will be a casual walk through the various habitats in the Frank Stanley Beveridge Wildlife Sanctuary in search of wildflowers in bloom. A mixture of native and naturalized species will be observed, with a total of more than thirty species likely. Bring a field guide if you like, but one is not necessary to enjoy the walk.

NATURALISTS' CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominating Committee and Upcoming Elections

Elections for officers and board members will be held at the May meeting. Prior to the May meeting, club members may contact anyone on the Nominating Committee to make additional nominations. Members of the committee are Karen Daniels (786-8228), Delores Gentile (783-6113), and Colette Potter (786-1805).

The following incumbents are running for office:

- President ~ Dave Gallup
- Vice President ~ Nancy Condon
- Treasurer ~ Dave Lovejoy
- Corresponding Secretary ~ Suzanne Gallup
- Recording Secretary ~ Sonya Vickers
- Directors ~ Tom Condon, Bill Fontaine, Jack Megas, Dietrich Schlobohm

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the May meeting.

Dorothy Anne Wheat and Phyllis Wheat Smith Naturalists' Club Funds

Preservation of our natural environment is one of the objectives of the Naturalists' Club. Currently, the club's investments have recovered sufficiently for the board to consider a distribution from the Dorothy Anne Wheat and Phyllis Wheat Smith endowments. Grants are distributed from these funds to support land acquisition, habitat protection, wildlife preservation and rehabilitation and to promote environmental education and an awareness of the natural world. We welcome suggestions from the membership in this regard. If you know of a worthy environmental cause that the Naturalists' Club can bolster with a donation, please bring it to the attention of a board member. (See contact information is in the back of the newsletter.) Help the club promote our beautiful environment here in Western Massachusetts!

Beautiful country, unspoiled country today is something sacred. It is so easy to rob a wilderness of its charm, so hard to bring it back.

From draft of untitled speech, ca 1934 ~ Sigurd F. Olson ~

Laughing Brook, Hampden

Unless otherwise noted, these programs will be held at Laughing Brook, located on Main Street in Hampden. Please register with Mass Audubon by calling 800-710-4550. A member/ nonmember fee is charged (except for Turtle Day).

- **Vernal Pools** ~ Saturday, April 16, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Turtle Day** ~ Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Pond and Stream** ~ Saturday, June 18, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- **Intro to Nature Photography** ~ Sundays, June 19 & 26, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Stump Sprouts Weekend, West Hawley

From dinnertime Friday, September 9, through Sunday luncheon, September 11

Leaders: Dietrich and Julie Schlobohm (788-4125)

Registration: All-inclusive cost for two nights lodging and six meals is \$139 per person. Make check payable to The Naturalists Club and send to Dietrich Schlobohm, 52 Poplar Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089. Indicate in your registration your roommate preference. Reservations and a 50% deposit must be received no later than June 1. This trip will be cancelled if 18 people are not paid by that date. Call Dietrich or Julie for more information.

High on the side of a mountain, with a magnificent view, Stump Sprouts ski lodge provides a beautiful setting for walking, hiking, or relaxing in solitude. A 90-minute drive from Springfield, the property consists of a 450-acre tract surrounded by Dubuque, Savoy, and Mohawk State Forests.

Guests need to bring their own bedding, towels, and toiletries; bathrooms are shared. Our hosts will provide superb family-style garden-fresh meals, complete with homemade breads and cookies. There is usually a choice of regular or meatless entrees. Bring along binoculars, good footwear, curiosity and a sense of wonder.

Limit: 20 people

THE FOODSHED IN OUR WATERSHED

The Westfield River Watershed Association presents its 17th annual symposium on the watershed

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011

Registration period: 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Program: 8:45 am - 12:30 pm

WHERE: Westfield State University, Scanlon Hall, Westfield, Mass.



Speakers from organizations such as Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) and the Northeast Organic Farmers Association, plus local farming and gardening experts and others, will address questions such as:

- How is a new generation of farmers seeking to connect with eaters in and around the watershed?
- Preservation of our area farms: What are state and local organizations doing to stop them from disappearing?
- What is the environmental impact of farming on our watershed?
- How can individuals use backyard and community gardens to add healthy, organic food to the family diet?

FREE admission. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, visit www.westfieldriver.org.

THE NATURALISTS' CLUB 2010 - 2011

FROM THE TREASURER

Members with a "10-11" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label are paid up for (at least) the current year. Otherwise, unless you remit dues for the year starting September 2010, this is the last issue you will receive and in April you will be sent a final reminder to continue your membership. Please save us the time and expense of mailing these April reminders by sending your check now, payable to the Naturalists' Club and mailed to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State University, Westfield MA 01086. Note: If your address and 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. Direct special requests or changes 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

BECOME A CLUB MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011

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.

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