



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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• SCHEDULE *of* EVENTS • OCTOBER *to* DECEMBER •

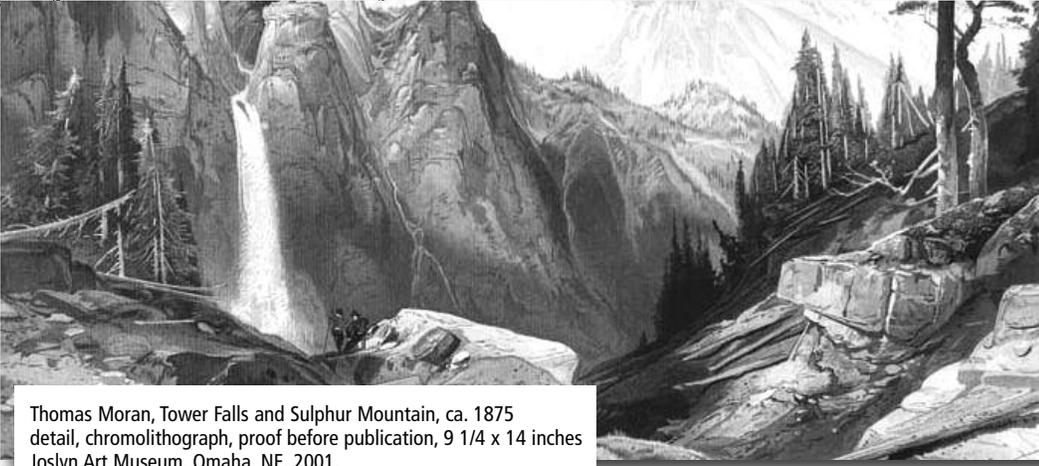
OCTOBER	5	Saturday	Nature Bike Hike, <i>Hadley/Amherst</i>
	16	Wednesday	OCTOBER MEETING: Mushrooms in Our Midst
	17	Thursday	Mittineague Meander, <i>West Springfield</i>
	19	Saturday	Benedict Pond, Beartown State Forest, <i>Monterey</i>
	26	Saturday	Paddle the Quinebaug River, <i>East Brimfield</i>
NOVEMBER	9	Saturday	Bear Hole Hike, <i>West Springfield</i>
	16	Saturday	Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill, <i>Orange</i>
	20	Wednesday	NOVEMBER MEETING: Birds of Prey
	21	Thursday	Rails to Trails, <i>Southwick</i>
	23	Saturday	A Visit to Tom Ricardi's Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center, <i>Conway</i>
30	Sunday	A Peaked Mountain Hike ~ Hike Away Your Thanksgiving Holiday, <i>Monson</i>	
DECEMBER	7	Saturday	Annual Late Fall Quabbin Hike, <i>New Salem</i>
	8	Sunday	Rocks at Work: A Visit to Two Historic Quarries, <i>Westfield and Becket</i>
	14	Saturday	An Evening with Naturalists, <i>Hampden</i>
	18	Wednesday	DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING
	19	Thursday	Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge, <i>Longmeadow</i>



Laughing Brook events appear on page 7.

NATURALIST'S CORNER

Reflections on a Naturalists' Club Trip to Yellowstone



Thomas Moran, Tower Falls and Sulphur Mountain, ca. 1875
detail, chromolithograph, proof before publication, 9 1/4 x 14 inches
Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE, 2001.

This last June, fourteen people traveled together and experienced the wilds of Yellowstone National Park for over a week, on a trip planned and headed up by Sonya Vickers. Being naturalists, we were especially interested in the wildlife, wildflowers, and geology of the area.

Oh my, did we see bears! It's not as it used to be back in the 60's when bears were equating cars and people with food handouts. These bears were in their own wild habitat, and tourists have been trained that to feed a bear is to kill a bear. If a bear becomes habituated to human food, chances are the bear will become a nuisance. Rangers will first dart and relocate such a "bad-mannered" bear; then if it comes back still begging for food it will be killed. Both black bear and grizzlies inhabit Yellowstone, and we got a chance to see both ~ from a safe distance! June is a wonderful time to visit the park because these bears had their cubs tagging along.

On our first day we stopped in awe of the bison herds. It was Yellowstone that established a breeding program with the very few who were so close to extinction at the end of the 19th century. Now bison roam the grassy valleys by the hundreds. During our visit in June, bison calves were being born, staying close to mom and nursing whenever there was a chance. Bison are the largest North American land mammals, and although they may appear as docile as cows, visitors must keep their distance. In point of fact, there are more injuries and fatalities from bison than any other animal at Yellowstone, including bears and wolves.

Yes, the first day we were awed by the bison, but soon we saw so many they became part of the landscape. We came to realize that bison had the right of way on the highway: sometimes a herd would simply choose the road as a convenience, so cars came to a halt while the herd paraded by, looking neither left nor right. One had to keep a cautious eye out for them when doing nighttime driving since bison occasionally just stand in the road. One stood right outside a store in the town of Silvergate, and until it moved, we thought it must be a statue.

Most have heard of the Old Faithful geyser, yet Yellowstone has the greatest concentration of geysers and thermal features in the world, numbering well over 10,000. The reason for so many? Magma is very close to the surface at Yellowstone, and groundwater seeping down through cracks in the rock emerges as steam vents, geysers, and hot springs. Yes, Yellowstone is a super-volcano whose 45-mile wide caldera was not fully realized until visualized from satellites. One of the last times the volcano exploded, its plume spewed ash from the Pacific Ocean to the other side of the Mississippi River ~ 6,000 times the extent of the Mt. St. Helens eruption!

So we hiked to geysers, bubbling mud pots, mammoth terraces of hot springs, and deep blue and orange hot springs. But our trip was not all about hot things. We went beyond the park to Beartooth Pass, at over 11,000 feet. It was June, of course, but the road had just opened the day before, after plows had cut through snowfall and snowdrift 26 feet deep in places. Some areas were windblown enough so half-inch high mats of alpine wildflowers could be seen just poking through.

Another side trip brought us to the Grand Teton National Park, just south of Yellowstone, where we hiked up to a crystal-clear alpine lake, returning through meadows of wildflowers on a perfect summer day.

We saw birds, including nesting osprey, and pronghorn antelope, mountain goats and their kids, bighorn sheep, elk, marmots, and mule deer. On our way back to the airport in Bozeman, Montana we stopped at a major earthquake site, quite happy that, although we'd seen no moose, we had encountered so much wildlife on our visit. But then just before Bozeman, whom should we behold munching willows by a stream but a cow moose and her calf. Perfect ending!

Will there be another Yellowstone trip organized by Sonya? Well, not in 2014, but perhaps..... ~ Sonya Vickers ~

OCTOBER

Nature Bike Hike, Hadley to Amherst

Saturday, October 5, from 10 a.m. to early afternoon

Leaders: Dietrich Schlobohm (788-4125) and Diane Genereux (388-2830)

Registration: Call Dietrich or Diane to register

Meeting Place: In Hadley on South Maple Street, just off Rte. 9 in the parking lot behind Walmart.

We will travel at an easy pace on the Norwottuck Bike Trail, with several stops to explore what nature has to offer. We will be traveling by bicycle through a variety of habitats and, with a little luck, will catch the sun and some of the fall foliage available at this time of the year. The terrain is neither steep nor hilly. Beginners are welcome. Bring your binoculars, water, a snack, and a spirit of adventure. Rain cancels.



**OCTOBER MEETING
MUSHROOMS IN OUR MIDST**

Wednesday, October 16, starting at 7:30 p.m.
Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium
Presenter: Dianna Smith, Mycology educator

Nearly every hike racks up a mysterious mushroom or curious fungus of some sort. Come enjoy a photographic presentation about some fungi we are likely to see on our hikes here in the Northeast. Learn about their complex associations with plants, and appreciate what a wide variety of colors and

forms we have in our fields and woods. Find out which are edible and which are deadly, and which have promising health benefits. You are invited to bring recently collected specimens or pictures of mushrooms you would like identified. Dianna will be happy to see them after the program. Dianna Smith is President Emeritus of the Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association as well as being a published field guide mushroom photographer and award-winning editor of the North American Mycological Association's newsletter, "The Mycophile."

Mittineague Meander, West Springfield

Thursday, October 17, at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Seeking out nature along the trail on the kind of fall day New England is renowned for ~ sounds like a worthwhile way to spend time with friends! Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

Benedict Pond, Beartown State Forest, Monterey

Saturday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill to register (533-2153).

Meeting Place: Town parking area behind the Otis Fire Department, at the junction of Routes 8 and 23.

Beautiful Benedict Pond in Beartown State Forest is undeveloped except for a boat launch and small beach. This area features diverse habitats, including a deciduous forest and a cattail marsh, and is rich in wildlife, particularly birds. On this walk, we'll follow the Pond Loop Trail and then a short section of the Appalachian Trail to complete our circuit of the pond. Trail length is about 2.5 miles, over fairly easy grades. For those who are interested (and ambitious!), a short, steep half-mile detour leads to the Ledges, with attractive views westward toward Mount Everett and the Catskills beyond. Wear sturdy footwear and bring along something to eat and drink.



"The milkweed pods are breaking,
And the bits of silken down;
Float off upon the autumn breeze,
Across the meadows brown."
~ Cecil Cavendish, *The Milkweed*

Ed Webster Presentation, Huntington

Thursday, October 24, starting at 7 p.m.

You may be aware that 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the first American ascent of Mt. Everest. It is also the 25th anniversary of the 1988 International Kangshung Face (Everest) Expedition, in which American Ed Webster and three other international climbers attempted a new route without oxygen, radios, or Sherpa assistance. On Thursday, October 24, photojournalist and mountaineer Ed Webster will give a presentation on his adventures at 7 p.m. in the Gateway Performing Arts Center, 12 Littleville Road, in Huntington. Admission is only \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids. Webster is an author, climber, lecturer, and photojournalist. He wrote *Snow in the Kingdom: My Storm Years on Everest*, an acclaimed volume of mountain literature. He has also authored climbing guidebooks on the White Mountains and on the islands of arctic Norway.

OCT. – NOV.

Paddle the Quinebaug River, East Brimfield

Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. till about 2 p.m.

Leaders: Nancy and Tom Condon and Dick and Moreen Kardas

Registration: Call Nancy or Tom to register (564-0895)

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

From the meeting spot we will caravan about a half an hour to East Brimfield Lake, off Route 20, near the Brimfield/Sturbridge town line. There, where parking is generous, 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 farmland; however, 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, various 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. If you don't have a boat, we can supply a canoe for you for, a \$10 per person fee.

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
~ L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*



NOVEMBER MEETING
BIRDS OF PREY

Wednesday, November 20, starting at 7:30 p.m.
Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium
Speaker: Tom Ricardi

Join us for a program by our old friend, Tom Ricardi. Over the past thirty years the Naturalists' Club has maintained a close connection with Tom and his Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center in Conway, Massachusetts. Tom will bring birds of prey and owls to our club meeting, and possibly an eagle. Usually, you'd only see raptors at a distance, so this is a great opportunity for folks to see them up close! Tom will share the natural history of these magnificent birds, demonstrate some of their unique behaviors, and inspire his audience to appreciate, respect, and to support conservation of these important birds of prey.

Bear Hole Hike, West Springfield

Saturday, November 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leader: Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Nancy to register (564-0895)

Meeting Place: The end of Bear Hole Road, off Dewey Street in West Springfield

Come hike this beautiful natural area, rich in history and varied forests. First we'll hike the white pine corridor along the old road, then turn in toward the active beaver pond. Hiking along Paucatuck Brook through a hemlock forest, we'll get to view the site of the old Bear Hole Family Resort and view archival pictures of it in its heyday. View the wonderful waterfall and the three-legged bear's den. Our hike will continue along the reservoir until we walk across the dam to view West Springfield's former water supply system. Then we will turn up the service road and take a trail to the parking lot, where our hike began, for a total length of about 3 miles. Mostly level hiking, except the that service road will involve a gradual upward climb. Dress for the weather, with decent hiking shoes. Bring a lunch and water.

Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill,

Orange

Saturday, November 16, 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.

The first half of 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, and even a handlaid keystone bridge. We'll take our time as we wind our way toward the reservoir, some 2.5 miles away. On our return, we'll skirt the eastern ledges of Rattlesnake Hill, home to soaring vultures, porcupines, and bobcats. Total distance is approximately 6 miles. Wear appropriate footwear and bring along something to eat and drink.

Rails to Trails, Southwick

Thursday, November 21, at 9 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Come along and join a group of nature watchers/walkers on this fall morning to stroll along a stretch of railway that has been transformed to an inviting greenway. Please call to register and for meeting place. Remember to bring your binoculars. Dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

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

Saturday, November 23, from 12 noon to mid-afternoon

Leader: Dave Gallup (525-4697)

Registration: Call to sign up for this program.

Limit 15 people.

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 different species of birds of prey. Tom's work through the years has given another chance to birds who have been injured or 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 programs that he has given for nature centers, schools, and our Naturalists' Club over the years. This is sure to be an informative and exciting afternoon at Tom's Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center.

A Peaked Mountain Hike ~ Hike Away Your Thanksgiving Holiday, Monson

Saturday, November 30, starting at 9 a.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 calories from that Thanksgiving dinner! We'll start in the early morning, hiking around a lovely pond with plenty of beaver activity, and then continue the hike to the summit of Peaked Mountain with its incredible vistas of the valley below. At the summit of Peaked Mountain you can see 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! Bring water and either lunch or snacks. Rain cancels.



"Dull November brings the blast,
Then the leaves are whirling fast."
- Sara Coleridge -

Annual Late Fall Quabbin Hike, New Salem

Saturday, December 7 (Pearl Harbor Day), starting at 10 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697)

Registration: Please call to register. Rain cancels.

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 and where we'll pass lots of stone walls and farm sites. It's possible that we'll see 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 around the Quabbin to explore. Bring your lunch, hot drinks, and binoculars. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes. If you arrive early at the meeting place, join us for a hearty breakfast at Hawley's Restaurant.

Rocks at Work: A Visit to Two Historic Quarries,

Westfield and Becket

Sunday, December 8, from 9 a.m. till about 3 p.m.

Leaders: Nancy and Tom Condon

Registration: Call Nancy or Tom to register (564-0895)

Meeting Place: Westfield State commuter parking lot, Western Ave, Westfield.

Quarries from the 1800s dot the landscape of Western Massachusetts. We'll explore two of these quarries to learn about the geology of the area, the importance of natural resources to a growing economy, and how nature recovers once harvesting has ended. Our first stop will be at an old marble quarry in Westfield. This is slightly more than a mile hike along an old woods road and trail. The going can be wet and a bit rocky in places, so come prepared. There are some long vistas along the way, and the quarry pit has filled with water to make a very pretty pond. We'll return to our cars and head over to Beckett to visit the Hudson-Chester Granite Quarry, a Beckett Land Trust property. Another short walk along a woods road will take us past discarded quarrying equipment and to another flooded quarry pit. The land trust has blazed and cleared a number of trails, so we'll spend some time exploring the area.

An Evening with Naturalists, Hampden

Saturday, December 14, starting at 7 p.m.

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, bring a picture or object or story that you would like to share with others. Directions will be provided when you call to register. Extreme weather cancels.

DECEMBER



DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING

Wednesday, December 18, starting at 7:30 p.m.
Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

Presenters: You!
Emcee: Nancy Condon

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 a place you enjoyed? We'd like for you to share your experience with us. Do you have photos of Naturalists' Club events from this past year? We'd like you to help us reminisce. Show us some of the highlights, by way of slides, PowerPoint, or photo album. Presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes in length. Another way to contribute is to bring something to the "What IS That?" table. Bring some intriguing objects or pictures, and we'll see if we can get other club members to figure out what they are. You can bring artifacts or natural treasures to show off in the nature displays even if you know exactly what they are. Part of the fun 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 (564-0895).

Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge, Longmeadow

Thursday, December 19, at 9 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Take a morning walk along with folks who can appreciate finding themselves in company of likeminded friends, stepping outside into natural surroundings upon winter's nearer approach. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.



Grosvenor Double Arch, Grand Staircase Escalante National Park

Exploring the Grand Staircase, Springdale, Utah

Saturday, April 12 to Saturday, April 19, 2014

Leaders: Nancy and Tom Condon

Registration: Call Nancy or Tom to register (564-0895) ~ Limit 10 people

Cost: ~\$1200 plus airfare (~\$500 from Bradley to Vegas)

The Grand Staircase is an immense sequence of sedimentary rock layers that stretch south from Bryce Canyon National Park through Zion National Park and into the Grand Canyon. In the 1870s, geologist Clarence Dutton first conceptualized this region as a huge stairway ascending out of the bottom of the Grand Canyon, northward, with the cliff edge of each layer forming giant steps. Dutton divided this layer cake of Earth history into five steps that he colorfully named Pink Cliffs, Grey Cliffs, White Cliffs, Vermilion Cliffs, and Chocolate Cliffs. What makes the Grand Staircase worldly unique is that it displays more Earth history than any other place on the planet. Geologists often liken the study of sedimentary rock layers to reading a history book ~ layer by layer, detailed chapter by detailed chapter. The problem is that in most places in the world, the book has been severely damaged by the rise and fall of mountains, the scouring of glaciers, etc. Usually these chapters are completely disarticulated from one another and often whole pages are just missing. Yet the Grand Staircase and the lower cliffs that comprise the Grand Canyon remain largely intact, speaking to over 600 million years of continuous Earth history, with only a few paragraphs missing here and there.

Join Tom and Nancy in exploring this unique part of southern Utah. We'll visit the breathtaking Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, a slot canyon in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Valley of Fire (NV) and Kodachrome Basin (UT) State Parks, and other natural areas. We'll try to get permits to see "The Wave," a beautifully carved delicate sandstone area limited to only 20 visitors a day. In addition to appreciating the geology of the Southwest, April is a wonderful time to visit because the waterfalls are usually flowing and the wildflowers are blooming.

Our accommodations will be in a large well-furnished cabin located between Zion and Bryce. We'll prepare our own breakfasts and lunches and some dinners, but you can expect to eat out a few times during the week. We'll travel as a group in a 15-passenger van from the Las Vegas Airport to our cabin and then to our hiking destinations each day.

We like to travel in small groups, so we are limiting group size to only 10 people (plus us), so call right away to reserve your spot. We know that some folks like to visit Las Vegas, so we will meet you all at the airport on April 12th and drop you all off there on the 19th. You can choose to fly in early or stay late to catch a show or gamble away your life's savings. Just remember to save some cash for souvenir shopping and groceries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At my leave-taking as editor, I extend thanks to those who have contributed in the effort. First of all, to Loren Hoffman, who can lay claim to bringing layout of the Naturalists' Club Newsletter to a new level, and who has been my mainstay in this endeavor, exhibiting remarkable patience, tenacity, and kindness, a true friend. She and I both have always been thankful for expressions of appreciation of the quality of this newsletter. Each nearly finished issue has benefited from Nancy Condon and Suzy Gallup's fresh look-over. I appreciate contributors' put-uppance at the exercise of my (presumptive) editorial license.

A brief and incomplete history of previous editorship: Richard Sanderson; David Lovejoy Sept 87-Sept 95; Buzz Hoagland Oct 95-June 03; Debbie Lovejoy July 03-Dec 13. In the wings, Diane Genereux, WSU biology professor, has been working alongside me this year, gradually taking on more editorial responsibility. Readers will reap the benefit of what I can promise will be her very capable, insightful performance as editor, and Loren will surely enjoy the opportunity to continue on in Diane's company. Contact Diane at natclubnewsletter@gmail.com ~ Debbie Leonard Lovejoy ~

Deb,
A good solid partnership happens over time and a true friendship extends throughout time. I have simply attached pictures and images to the words that you have collected and given to me. For years we have worked together to produce this newsletter and even though distance now separates us, we will always be close and always be friends. 

Dorothy Anne Wheat and Phyllis Wheat Smith Naturalists' Club Funds

Over the years, grants have been distributed from the Dorothy Anne Wheat and Phyllis Wheat Smith endowments with an eye toward supporting land acquisition, habitat protection, and wildlife preservation and rehabilitation, as well as promoting environmental education and an awareness of the natural world.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce a grant of \$1,000 to Mass. Audubon for nature education at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Easthampton. This Spring volunteer field walk leaders visited the Holyoke schools and conducted nature education programs. Another portion of the grant will allow for the busing of Holyoke elementary school students to visit Arcadia in the coming year. The grant was drawn from our endowment with the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.



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. Member/nonmember fees are charged.

Intermediate Nature Photography

Sundays, October 6 and 20, from 1 to 5 p.m.

In this two-session class we will go beyond the basics to emphasize control of exposure with shutter speed and aperture and talk about good composition. We'll also consider exposing for HDR and focus-stacking. You should have a basic understanding of your camera controls, shutter, aperture, and ISO. We will review these briefly. Also, bring a manual for your camera; alternatively, provide your camera model when you register so the instructor can locate a manual. Program starts at Hampden Town Hall, 625 Main Street.

Witches' Hats, Traveling Critters, and Fall Color

Saturday, October 19, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

With Halloween just around the corner, we tend to think about witches and goblins. Did you know that you can find witches' hats growing in the woods at Laughing Brook? Come find out where these hats are lurking and see how many you can find. Along the way we will look for traveling critters such as migrating birds, swimming water beetles, and seeds that attach themselves to animals. You won't be able to help but admire the beautiful colors of autumn.

Family Astronomy

Saturday, November 2, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Join us for a look at stars, constellations, and planets visible in the night sky. We will explore both science and mythology of the heavens in this presentation. We'll learn about some of the sights first with a computer-aided discussion, then go outside to Laughing Brook if weather permits. Program starts at Hampden Town Hall, 625 Main Street.

Turkey Family Program

Saturday, November 16, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Wild turkeys can now be found almost everywhere in Massachusetts. Once nearly extirpated from the state, they are now found in forests, fields, and even cities. Come learn about this large bird Benjamin Franklin nominated as the national bird! We'll look at feathers and other turkey features and food items before heading out on the trails to search for evidence of turkeys!

Just a reminder . . . Please be mindful of the environment. If possible, please carpool to your destination and share costs with your driver. Thank you. ~ Naturalists' Club Board of Directors

THE NATURALISTS' CLUB 2013-2014

FROM THE TREASURER

The fall of the year is the traditional time to renew membership in the Club. Those of you with a "13-14" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label have paid for the coming year. Otherwise, your dues are owed for the year starting September 2013. 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



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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Name

Address

Phone Number

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Requests for programs/trips

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