



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

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THE NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

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

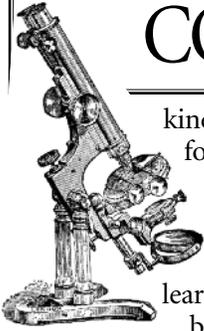
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JANUARY *to* MARCH SCHEDULE *of* ACTIVITIES

JANUARY	5	Saturday	Snowshoeing: Walking Through Winter, <i>Quabbin</i>
	12	Saturday	Snowshoe Ramble: Porcupines and Stone Quarries, <i>Northfield</i>
	16	Wednesday	JANUARY MEETING: White-Tailed Deer in Massachusetts: History, Ecology, and Management
	17	Thursday	Winter Walk Through the Park, <i>West Springfield</i>
	19	Saturday	Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill, <i>Orange</i>
	26	Saturday	Moonlight Hike 'Round Lunden Pond, <i>Monson</i>
FEBRUARY	2	Saturday	DAR State Forest Snowshoe/Hike, <i>Goshen</i>
	9	Saturday	Exploring the Westfield State University Natural History Museum, <i>Westfield</i>
	13	Wednesday	FEBRUARY MEETING: Rachel Carson: Beyond Silent Spring
	21	Thursday	Walking in Winter, <i>Westfield</i>
	23	Saturday	Hubbard River Gorge, <i>Granville</i>
MARCH	2	Saturday	Nature Journaling Workshop, <i>Westfield</i>
	16	Saturday	How Sweet It Is! Maple Sugaring Time in New England, <i>West Granville</i>
	20	Wednesday	MARCH MEETING: Reading the Forested Landscape * March meeting will be held at Westfield State University *
	21	Thursday	On the Cusp of Spring, <i>Longmeadow</i>
	24	Sunday	Bus Trip ~ Bronx Zoo, <i>The Bronx, NYC</i>



NATURALIST'S CORNER



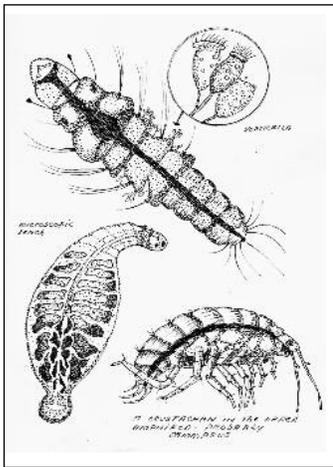
THE OBSERVANT NATURALIST

You come across a flower and wonder what it might be, or hear the first peepers and wonder if they are early this year or right on time. Naturalists are always asking these kinds of questions. What if you could talk to yourself in the past and ask questions of the future? Seems like an app for life that we all would love to have. Yet we already have that capability. That is how I use my nature journal.

It all started one summer when there were too many expenses to enable any exciting travel. I decided that if I could not travel that I would learn as much as I could about the nature of my own back yard. I picked up an acorn and noticed a small round hole in it. What made that? The best way to record what I was learning was to draw that acorn and the position and size of the hole. I learned that it was produced by a tiny beetle, an acorn weevil. The adult lays an egg in an immature acorn and the larva develops, feeding on the nut. When the nut falls from the tree the youngster gets a free ride to the ground, where it finishes developing. It emerges as an adult next spring to lay eggs in developing acorns.

Drawing that simple acorn started a lifelong desire to learn more about life on this planet by recording what I was witnessing. I am no artist and have no training in drawing, and I believe that anyone can benefit from looking at something long enough to attempt a sketch. Drawing is not an innate ability; it is something anyone can do just by observing and, like all repetitive tasks, one gets better with practice. This kind of drawing is all about seeing, not about art.

The rain gutters needed cleaning ~ not a pleasant task, but my reward was the sludge where I discovered rotifers cavorting under my microscope! These are multicellular animals but just a bit bigger than protozoans, and their antics fascinated me! Since then I have drawn so many things I have observed under the microscope, opening up this whole new world that is on a different scale.



So for years I have looked at bugs, flowers, fungi, weeds, lichens and let these objects teach me. Believe me, as a slow sketcher, these objects have had ample time to get messages about their structure into my brain. And, oh, the lessons they have taught! Not all goldenrods are the same kind. Lots of different bright red bugs can be found on milkweed plants. Bird feathers can tell you about the birds they came from and even where on that bird the feather used to be. My journals, now numbering many, are the keys to observations past, the details of which are not lost as soon as they are learned. They are my treasure. I often refer back to these past observations and build on them with present information to be able to predict future trends. Do I still have the kind of lichens around my house that indicate good air quality?

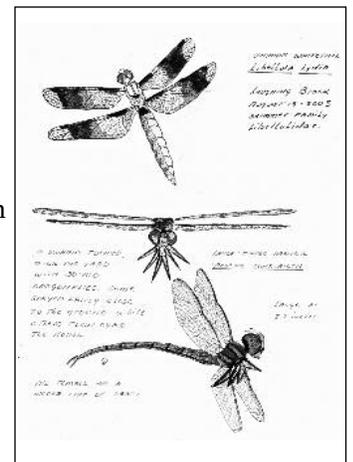
Later, travel became more possible and now that I had my back yard study, I took delight in comparing that with observations across the country and, later, around the world. The West Coast has two different maple trees than we do, but the aspens in Colorado are the same species as the poplar we have here. I noticed the world's smallest butterfly, a Western pygmy-blue in Arizona, and the large foot-long walking stick in Brazil. Since neither of these would stay still long enough for me to draw them, I utilized my digital camera to stop their motion and then draw from that.

Today we have a host of technology that can bring the natural world into focus. Most digital cameras, even the simple ones, can take pictures very close up. The internet is so easy now to help with identification and information about something you find. Smartphones even have apps for the naturalist to keep track of sightings. It is tempting to utilize quick methods, but then one would miss the joy of focused time spent with an object with a message to impart. Observing long enough to draw something, one gleans intangible rewards of right brain pleasure, and a record emerges that can be built upon throughout a lifetime.

So give it a try. Find a bound journal with unlined pages that suits your fancy. It should be small enough to carry around. Besides, large blank pages can be intimidating. A pencil, eraser and perhaps some colored pencils or a small watercolor kit is all you need. Find something that is simple and see what it can teach you. A leaf, a winter branch with lichens, or a seashell you found last summer. Date your entry. Draw what you observe. Look at the object more than at your drawing. See what information you can find about the object. This process will reward you with an unforgettable memory, so you can consult the past to unveil a network of connections yet to be discovered in the future.

If you need some pointers, come to the workshop Nancy Condon and I will be hosting on March 2nd at Westfield State University.

~ Sonya Vickers ~



JANUARY

Snowshoeing: Walking Through Winter, Quabbin

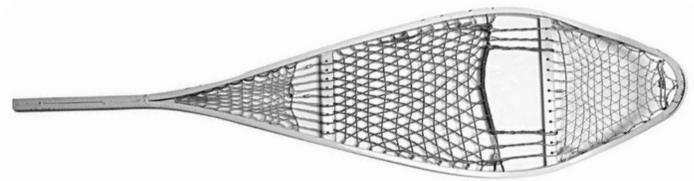
Saturday, January 5, starting at 11 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697)

Registration: Please call to let us know you are going.

Meeting Place: CVS Plaza, Belchertown, junction of Routes 202 and 9

Dave and Suzy will lead us on a snowshoe hike in beautiful Quabbin Park. Along the way we keep our eyes open for animal tracks in the snow while learning something about the natural history of the area. Easy pace ~ about two miles, round trip. It is great exercise and great fun for the entire family. If you can walk, you can snowshoe! If you don't have snowshoes, Dave has extra pairs. We will hike if there is no snow!



Snowshoe Ramble: Porcupines and Stone Quarries, Northfield

Saturday, January 12, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Leader: Kim Noyes

Registration: Call Northfield Mountain (800-859-2960)

Meeting Place: Northfield Mountain, 99 Millers Falls Rd., Northfield, Mass.

For ages 10 and older

Fee: Free; \$18 for snowshoe rental

Northfield Mountain's trails are a perfect place to explore signs of wildlife and clues to past land use. Join Naturalist Kim Noyes for a winter tromp, exploring animal tracks, porcupine sign, and an abandoned 19th century stone quarry. A cup of hot cocoa around a campfire will round out the afternoon. The hike is approximately two miles in length, with an elevation gain of 400 feet. Bring water, snacks, wear wind pants or gaiters, and dress in warm layers that can be shed as we get moving. Warm footwear is essential. This event is for ages 10 and older. Registration required. There is no fee if you bring your own snowshoes. You may also rent snowshoes for \$18.

JANUARY MEETING

WHITE-TAILED DEER IN MASSACHUSETTS: HISTORY, ECOLOGY, AND MANAGEMENT

Wednesday, January 16, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

Presenter: John McDonald

This talk by John McDonald will briefly cover the history of white-tailed deer in the state, focusing on the last century. We will touch on elements of deer ecology important to understanding how and why they are managed. We will also talk about how and why deer are managed through public hunting and what recent research has taught us about the population dynamics of deer in Massachusetts. We will also entertain other wildlife-related questions.

John McDonald is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Science at Westfield State University. From 2003 to 2012 he was a Wildlife Specialist with the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program of the US Fish & Wildlife Service at the regional office in Hadley, where he administered Wildlife Restoration and State Wildlife grants to 13 states in the Northeast region. He obtained a PhD from UMass-Amherst where he studied black bear ecology, an MS from Penn State where he studied ruffed grouse, and a BS in forestry from Virginia Tech.

I remember one winter, when I was about five or six, I spent three days with another boy, tracking a bobcat that had been sighted in another county fifty miles away, but which I was sure had come into our neighborhood. ~ Terry Brooks ~

Winter Walk Through the Park, West Springfield

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

Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)

Place: Mittineague Park

Here's hoping for a "winter wonderland" of a day to walk through Mittineague Park with the intrepid ~ a day to enjoy nature. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

Quabbin Reservation: Gate 30 ~ Rattlesnake Hill,

Orange

Saturday, January 19, 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, and a hand-laid keystone bridge. 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. Bring poles, too; it may be slippery.

Moonlight Cross-Country Skiing at Maple Corners,

Granville

January 25 and/or February 22 (Dates not yet determined before press date.)

Location: Maple Corners Farm, 794 Beech Hill Road, Granville, Mass. 01034 (357-8829)

Cost: \$25/person with skis; \$30/person with rental

Ski by the light of the nearly full moon at this beautiful farm in Granville. Maple Corner Farms is a working farm, doing sugaring in the spring (see write-up for March) and maintaining an extensive trail system for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. Once per month they offer a special moonlight experience for those ready for a glorious outing. The paths will be illuminated by moonlit snow, starry skies, and luminaries (candles in bags) lining parts of the trails. When in need of a warm-up, go inside and have a snack and a warm drink while sitting by the crackling fire. There is a fee payable to Maple Corner Farms upon arrival for participation. Dress in plenty of layers as an evening ski is colder than a daytime ski.

As I followed the winding track of the mossy road that led us out of the woods for a final time that day, I stopped frequently to examine the winter buds. I ran my fingers along the plump green buds of the saffras; the brown, twig-tip clusters of the oaks; the red-tinged buds of the swamp maples; the slender, spearhead shapes of the beeches; the blunt, velvety buds of the shagbark hickories. Within each, folded and tucked and compressed like a packed parachute, was the leaf of another summer. On this day when the feel of winter's end was in the air, I reveled in the shape and texture and promise of the winter buds.

Wandering Through Winter ~ Edwin Way Teale ~

Moonlight Hike 'Round Lunden Pond, *Monson*

Saturday, January 26, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Tom or Nancy (564-0895)

Meeting Place: Miller Forest Tract parking lot, along Butler Road by Peaked Mountain.

Bundle up on this night before the full moon for a leisurely one-mile hike around Lunden Pond. We'll stop frequently to call owls, as this is the time they are establishing territory and finding mates. Near the end, we'll stop for a cup of hot chocolate and some goodies. If it's snowy, bring snowshoes. If you don't own a pair, ask Tom or Nancy to borrow a set.

DAR State Forest Snowshoe/Hike, *Goshen*

Saturday, February 2 (Groundhog Day/Candlemas!)

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Tom or Nancy (564-0895)

Meeting Place: Goshen Town Hall on Route 9

On this cross-quarter day, when winter is half over, join us for a snowshoe hike in DAR State Forest. Travel among the many beech trees of a beautiful hardwood forest, up to a vantage point among the spruce. We'll aim to ascend to the fire tower, which provides a 360 degree view of the surrounding hills. Co-leader will be Alec Gilman, Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Coordinator for Western Region. Bring a lunch and drink and dress in layers. If no snow, we'll hike. If yes snow, and you don't have snowshoes, ask Tom or Nancy to borrow a set.

Exploring the Westfield State University Natural History Museum, *Westfield*

Saturday, February 9, from 1 p.m. to 3? p.m.

Leaders: Dave Gallup (525-4697) and Dave Lovejoy (572-5307 or dlovejoy@westfield.ma.edu)

Registration: We would appreciate a call or email to know how many are coming. Extreme weather cancels, without a back-up date, but we can offer this again in a future newsletter.

Directions: Wilson Hall Room 223 (there are signs on campus pointing out the buildings). Parking on a Saturday can be anywhere on campus. The door to the building by the greenhouse will definitely be unlocked.

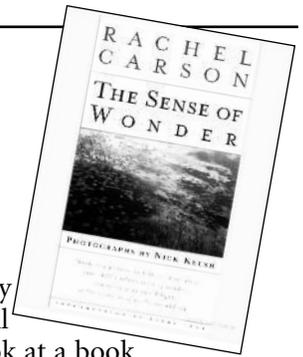
This WSU Museum has rather comprehensive collections of local birds and mammals on display as well as various specimens clearly not native to the valley and surrounding hills. There will be ample time to view displays and to hear, especially from Dave Gallup, about the taxidermy method of specimen preparation. Collections not on display will be made available, including the University herbarium, the most complete collection for Hampden County plants assembled anywhere. There will be plenty of time for questions. Children are encouraged to attend.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY MEETING

RACHEL CARSON: BEYOND *SILENT SPRING*
 Wednesday, February 13, starting at 7:30 p.m.
 Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium
Presenter: Kevin Kopchynski

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder . . . he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."
 ~ from Rachel Carson's *The Sense of Wonder*



2012 marked the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*. Rachel Carson is widely recognized for her pioneering work in alerting the world to the dangers of chemical pollution. We will briefly examine this legacy and the controversy surrounding her work. Then we will move on to look at a book she published near the end of her life, *The Sense of Wonder*. If *Silent Spring* showed us what was at stake, *The Sense of Wonder* gave us a way to be sure we raise a generation who cares. This presentation will feature photos from an area in Maine where Rachel Carson explored tidal pools along with readings from her book and words of other authors with similar views. We'll then be treated to a few photo essays inspired by this sense of wonder, perhaps inspiring the same wonder in you.

Longtime Western Massachusetts resident and Naturalists' Club member Kevin Kopchynski works as a nature/science educator and freelance computer helper, offering personalized services tailored to clients' requirements. At times Kevin's photography reflects a fascination sparked by mathematical ideas that form a basis for understanding and describing the natural world. On his own and as a member of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists, The Massachusetts Camera Naturalists, and the Quabbin Photo Group, Kevin has discovered in photography an ideal medium integrating his technical skills with a desire to share his deep love of nature.

Walking in Winter, Westfield
 Thursday, February 21, at 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)
Place: Stanley Park

Come enjoy a lovely morning walk round the park on a midwinter's day. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

Hubbard River Gorge, Granville
 Saturday, February 23, 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.

On this easy winter 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 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 begin our walk along a gated forest road, following the river south toward Connecticut, then head back the way we came in. Dress appropriately, wear sturdy footwear, and bring along your trekking poles.

Wildlife Tracking: It's About More Than Tracks, Russell
 Saturday, February 23, at 10 a.m.
Leader: Jim Pelletier and the Berkshire Wildlife Trackers
Registration: Call Gary Forish (572-4501)
Meeting Place: Noble View Outdoor Center, South Quarter Road, Russell

Come learn about tracks and their patterns as well as other signs of wildlife. We'll spend about an hour inside learning how to look and what to look for, then go outside to practice what we've learned, looking for tracks and sign and understanding the stories they tell. Dress warmly for winter conditions. Snowshoes may be required, weather depending.

Berkshire Wildlife Trackers read the woods and other natural habitats for tracks and signs of wildlife. These trained wildlife monitors go out in small teams to collect data that tells a story of how wildlife species use the natural areas of Berkshire County and the surrounding areas. The team maintains a database of the information collected and shares this data with scientists, educators, government agencies, and environmental organizations to help protect wildlife species and important wildlife habitat and linkages in the region. Hosted by Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) and Berkshire Natural Resource Council (BNRC).

Hot chocolate will be provided before and after the event. An optional small laminated tracks reminder card that many trackers use in the field is available for a small fee of \$7 each to cover the cost of printing.

"Perhaps I am a bear, or some hibernating animal underneath, for the instinct to be half asleep all winter is so strong in me."
 ~ Anne Morrow Lindbergh ~

MARCH

Nature Journaling Workshop, Westfield

Saturday, March 2, from 10 a.m. to noon
Leaders: Sonya Vickers and Nancy Condon.
Call Sonya at 566-3406
Location: Westfield State University

Have you heard about nature journaling and would like to give it a try? Come to our workshop with an unlined notebook and pencil and eraser and get some pointers. You do NOT need to know how to draw. This is not an art course but an exercise in observation that can be applied to your learning about things in nature. The following things are not necessary, but might help if you have them: a digital camera or cell phone, a small watercolor set and brush, and colored pencils.

How Sweet It Is! Maple Sugaring Time in New England, West Granville

Sunday, March 16, starting at 11:30 a.m.
Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697) Please call.
Registration: Maple Corner needs a headcount.
Meeting Place: Westfield State U. commuter parking lot

Join us for this annual event ~ a pancake brunch with freshly made maple syrup at Ripley's Maple Corner Farm in West Granville, a farm that has been run by the same family for over one hundred years! After brunch you will learn about the process and history of maple syrup production. Then, weather permitting, a one-mile round trip hike to the "sugar bush" to see how maple sap is harvested. For ages 8 and up.

MARCH MEETING

READING THE FORESTED LANDSCAPE
Wednesday, March 20, starting at 7:30 p.m.
Springfield Science Museum, Tolman Auditorium

NOTE: Meeting will be held at Westfield State University, Auditorium B, Wilson Hall

Presenter: Tom Wessels

Why are pine dominant in one place and maple in another? Why do beech and birch trees have smooth bark when the bark of all other northern species is rough? How do you tell the age of a beaver pond and determine if beavers still live there? Tom Wessels has spent more than thirty years interpreting New England's landscape and teaching others to "see the forest for the trees." He holds that by coming to a fuller understanding of our home ground, we achieve a greater sense of place.

Tom Wessels is a terrestrial ecologist in the Department of Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England where he has been teaching since 1978. One of his many interests is studying the interface between landscape and culture. He has authored four books, including *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England*; *The Granite Landscape: A Natural History of America's Mountain Domes*; *From Acadia to Yosemite, The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*; and *Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape*.

Come join us for an evening with ecologist and author Tom Wessels as he helps us learn about interpreting our New England landscape. There will be time for questions and book signing at the end. This special program is co-sponsored by the Westfield River Environmental Center.



Directions/Parking for Westfield State University

WSU is about 3 miles west of Westfield Center (the green) on Western Ave. The road leaving the green is Court St. which becomes Western Avenue. Just past Stanley Park (on left) and The Horace Mann Center (on right) is a traffic light, at which you should turn right into the commuter parking lot for WSU. As you drive into the lot, Wilson Hall can be seen through the trees on the left (big four-floor building with greenhouse to the left). The Auditorium is towards the right wing of Wilson as you walk towards it. It may be possible to park a little closer to the Auditorium by entering the second entrance to Westfield State (first major right after the light) and then parking along the road near the Wilson Auditorium. (See "map and directions" on WSU website www.westfield.ma.edu.)

On the Cusp of Spring, Longmeadow

Thursday, March 21, at 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Colette Potter (786-1805)
Place: Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge

Anyone's guess now whether this mid-March morning will have the feel of winter chill or spring warmth about it. Either way, the plan is we'll be heading outside to witness the seasonal transition. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Please call to register and for meeting place. Bad weather cancels.

As we came out beside one stand of the dry and yellow [cattails], the air was filled with sounds of spring. A flock of male red-winged blackbirds, arrived in advance of the females to stake out nesting territories, whirled into the air. Irrepressible, unaffected by the chill or the drifting rain, the scarlet of their epaulets brilliant even in the dull light of that sodden day, they heralded the approach of spring with their ringing "Okale-e-e-e!"

Wandering Through Winter ~ Edwin Way Teale ~

MARCH

Bus Trip ~ Bronx Zoo, *The Bronx, NYC*

Sunday, March 24, from 7 a.m. till approx. 7 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (572-5307)

Registration: Send a check payable to The Naturalists' Club to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State University, POB 1630, Westfield MA 01086. Payment is due by March 9.

Meeting Place: Home Depot parking lot, off Riverdale Road on Daggett Drive, West Springfield. Please park in the area of the lot between Home Depot and Costco. Arrive in time to be on the bus for 7 a.m. departure.

It has been several years since the club has scheduled a trip to this world-class zoo. Spring is likely to be a little further along in the Bronx, compared to Springfield. We'll hope for a warm day: with good weather outdoor animals should be active. There are indoor and outdoor exhibits to be seen, so be prepared for a bit of walking.

\$32 per person covers the bus ride and driver's tip. With so many variables regarding admission, people will be responsible for obtaining their own tickets. In late March lower "winter" admission prices are still in effect. General admission at the gate for adults is \$16.95, seniors (65+) \$14.95, children 3-12 \$11.95. Visit bronxzoo.com for an explanation of "total experience" tickets for a few dollars more and including unlimited access to rides and attractions. Consider obtaining tickets online ahead of time to save a few dollars off rates mentioned above and to avoid waiting in line when we arrive.

Registering (with \$32 per person payment) well ahead of the March 9 due date will ensure you a seat on the bus and a full enough bus so that we do not need to cancel the trip. Leaving at 7 a.m. should get us to the zoo around the opening time of 10 a.m., with a 30-minute coffee stop along the way. Departure will be at 4 p.m., with a brief rest stop, and return to West Springfield around 7 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAUGHING BROOK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, *Hampden*

These family-oriented programs are held at Laughing Brook. Call Arcadia at 800-710-4550 for information and to register.

Tracking and Animal Signs

Saturdays, January 19 and February 16, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

With or without snow, the landscape records the ways and byways of wildlife. Club member and Mass Audubon naturalist Kevin Kopchynski will lead a program for families, exploring the signs of animal activity.

Signs of Spring

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

The calendar says spring is near, and hints of the changing season abound. Join Kevin Kopchynski for a walk around Laughing Brook, looking for some of these signs.

Pioneer Valley Outdoor Fair, *Westfield*

Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Westfield State University's Wilson Hall

Bring your neighbors and your friends and family to a day full of outdoor adventure. All the outdoor clubs and organizations in the Valley will converge at Westfield State University and Stanley Park. Visit the tables to find out all the opportunities you have for enjoying the outdoors. Participate in a full day of activities each organization will be offering. Go on a birding trip with the Allen Bird Club, take a hike with the Wilbraham Hiking Club, or bring the kids to "Noticing Nature" program by the DCR. Over 20 groups will be in attendance, and events will take place all day long for adults and kids. We can also use some volunteers to staff the Naturalists' Club table and to lead a hike or activity. To help out on this day, contact Nancy Condon (564-0895).

Floral Displays ~ A Breath of Spring

Amherst Orchid Society Show, *Northampton*

The Society's 2013 show will take place at Smith Vocational Agricultural High School, 80 Locust Street (Route 9, west of town) on Saturday, February 23rd, from 9 to 5, and Sunday, February 24th, 10 to 4. Nominal admission charge.

Smith College 2013 Spring Bulb Show, *Northampton*

The various glasshouses of Smith College's Lyman Plant House & Conservatory date from 1895, 1901, 1952, and 1981. Average temperature varies by house, with a minimum of 50 to 70° F. Smith's Spring Bulb Show opens the first Saturday in March and runs for two weeks, including the third weekend. 2013's show dates go from Saturday, March 2nd to Sunday, March 17th. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, plus Friday evenings 6 to 8 p.m. Nominal donation.

Mount Holyoke College Spring Bulb Show, *South Hadley*

Mt. Holyoke College's springtime horticultural event will showcase hundreds of spring-blossoming bulbs and plants, on display in the main Show House of Talcott Greenhouse. Scheduled to start Monday, March 4th, running daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Sunday, March 17th, weather/growing conditions permitting (meaning it's possible the opening could be moved forward a week). No charge, but consider donating.

I will be the gladdest thing under the sun! I
will touch a hundred flowers and not pick one.

~ Edna St. Vincent Millay ~

THE NATURALISTS' CLUB 2012-2013

FROM THE TREASURER

Those of you with a "12-13" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label have paid for (at least) the coming year. Otherwise, your dues are owed for the year that started September 2012. 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: Since Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list, please 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



Just a reminder . . . please be mindful of the environment. If possible, please:

- carpool to destinations
- share costs with your driver

Thank you ~ Naturalists' Club Board of Directors

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.

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

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.