



# The NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

2014

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts

## October to December Calendar of Events

- OCT**
- 4 Saturday Hike the Monument Mountain Reservation, *Great Barrington*
  - 15 Wednesday OCTOBER MEETING: Voyage of the Ant
  - 16 Thursday A Stroll at Ludlow Reservoir, *Ludlow*
  - 18 Saturday Benedict Pond, Beartown State Forest, *Monterey*
  - 18 Saturday Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, *Wales*
  - 25 Saturday Biking the Farmington Valley Trail, *East Granby, CT*
- NOV**
- 1 Saturday Walden Pond Revisited, *Concord*
  - 9 Sunday Biking as Transportation, *Westfield*
  - 19 Wednesday NOVEMBER MEETING: The Northeastern Connecticut Kestrel Project: Restoration and Research
  - 20 Thursday Ashley Reservoir, *Holyoke*
  - 22 Saturday Sofinowski Land Preserve, *Southwick*
  - 29 Saturday A Peaked Mountain Hike After Your Thanksgiving Holiday, *Monson*
- DEC**
- 7 Sunday Annual Late Fall Quabbin Hike, *New Salem*
  - 13 Saturday Evening with Naturalists, *Hampden*
  - 17 Wednesday DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING
  - 18 Thursday Mittineague Meander, *West Springfield*
  - 20 Saturday Forest Park Excursion, *Springfield*

*For information about events and trips sponsored by other groups, please see page 7.*



This October, the Naturalists' Club is 45 years old!

**Learn to Know, Enjoy, and Keep our Natural World.**



## Protecting our trees from the invasive winter moth

On a sunny day last May while visiting my parents in southeastern Massachusetts, I was walking toward a maple tree when I heard a sound something like heavy raindrops. As I got closer, I realized that the sound was from a shower of bright green caterpillars and their frass, falling from the tree onto the pavement below. The damage to the tree appeared to be extensive: nearly all of the leaves were full of holes!

The culprit for my parents' tree, and for many others in eastern Massachusetts it turns out, is the winter moth *Operophtera brumata*, a European species separately introduced to eastern Canada in the 1930s and to western Canada in the 1970s. In western North America *O. brumata* ("the winter moth") is an agricultural pest causing extensive damage to blueberry and apple crops.<sup>1</sup> In Alaska foliar damage by another invasive late-season moth is so extreme that it may severely reduce the nutrition content of willow leaves, with potentially devastating consequences for the moose populations that forage on these leaves.<sup>2</sup> In New England the winter moth may soon impact maple syrup production by defoliating trees just a few weeks after tapping is over, imposing severe stress. Damage caused by the winter moth closely parallels that imposed by the gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, another invasive insect that has had severe impacts on trees in Massachusetts, especially in the 1980s.<sup>3</sup>

As Sonya Vickers noted in her Winter 2011 Naturalist's Corner piece, the ability of the winter moth to reach large population sizes in Massachusetts is attributable at least in part to the ability of the adult moth to remain active at temperatures fatal for many insects. In eastern Massachusetts adult winter moths typically emerge from the soil sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Males, who are attracted by female hormones but also by outdoor lighting, can often be seen fluttering around holiday-light displays. In contrast to the male, the female winter moth is flightless. While this sedentary lifestyle increases the risk that a female moth will be preyed upon by birds, having a body too heavy to fly in fact enables the female to accommodate a much larger number of eggs. After mating, female moths lay fertilized eggs in somewhat protected areas, such as within tree bark and lichen. Eggs then bide their time, with pale-green larvae hatching at about the time of bud break in maples. In my parents' coastal town this critical temperature typically occurs in late March or early April.

Emerging larvae are voracious and eagerly feed on emerging leaves and blossoms. They produce silk threads, which enable them to sail to neighboring trees, expanding the radius of infestation. By the time it pupates in early summer, a typical winter-moth larva has eaten enough plant tissue to become approximately one inch long. Together, winter moths' huge appetites and large population sizes can help to explain why, by late May, nearly all of the leaves on my parents' infested maple tree, and others like it, are full of holes.

So why have forests in western Massachusetts so far been spared the intrusion of these hungry caterpillars? One possible explanation is that the winter moth simply has not arrived here yet. Indeed, the winter moth does seem to be moving westward from the New England coast at a rate of about six to eight km per year.<sup>3</sup> Will the colder winter weather of western as compared to coastal Massachusetts protect us from a full-scale invasion? Or will evolutionary change, leading to earlier emergence in the fall, or perhaps climate change, leading to warmer winter temperatures in our area, enable the moths to become established here<sup>4</sup>? These are major questions for Jeff Boettner, a research assistant, and his boss, Entomologist Dr. Joe Elkinton, both based in the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Fortunately, says Jeff, there are good prospects for protecting native plants in Massachusetts from the winter moth. He and Dr. Elkinton are leading efforts to establish in Massachusetts and in five other states populations of the parasitic fly *Cyzenis albicans*, a species native to Europe. This parasitic fly, whose larvae eat the pupae of the winter moth, specializes on the winter moth and is not anticipated to parasitize our native insects. In Europe, where the winter moth is native, the parasitic fly limits its populations, preventing extensive damage to native and cultivated tree species. Experimentally introduced populations of the parasitic fly have been successfully established in Nova Scotia in the 1950s and in the vicinity of Vancouver, British Columbia in the 1970s and have markedly reduced winter moth populations.<sup>1</sup>

Implementing successful biological control programs can be challenging, expensive, and time-consuming. As they choose sites in which to try to establish the parasitic fly, Jeff and colleagues must first identify areas infested with the winter moth. To do so, they place special moth traps in late fall/early winter throughout areas with known or suspected infestations. They bait the winter-moth traps with a pheromone emitted by female winter moths and attractive to male winter moths. Unfortunately, the traps also attract males of a native species, Bruce spanworm (*Operophtera bruceata*), a look-alike of the winter moth. To distinguish between the trapped native and invasive moths, Jeff must dissect captured moths and examine their reproductive anatomy. Moreover, because matings of the invasive winter moth and the native Bruce spanworm can form viable hybrid offspring, Jeff sometimes must also use higher-cost genetic approaches to determine whether a given individual found in a trap carries genetic material from the winter moth.

Once it is clear that the invasive winter moth has infested a given area, it is time to introduce the parasitic fly. For several weeks each spring, Jeff travels to British Columbia, where the parasitic fly was successfully established some years ago. There he shares a hotel room with over 100,000 fly-parasitized winter-moth caterpillars that must be sustained until they pupate.

Attending to the needs of ~100,000 roommates that are green, hungry, and about to pupate is a “big project,” Jeff says. Preliminary evidence suggests that their work is paying off: The parasitic fly is now established in some winter-moth-infested sites in Rhode Island and eastern Massachusetts and has recently been released in parts of Connecticut and Maine.

The severity of damage to my parents’ tree in coastal Massachusetts underscores the importance of efforts by Jeff and others to monitor for the moth’s possible arrival in our local forests and to implement biological-control strategies. Indeed, during the past two years male winter moths have been recovered from Turners Falls, indicating the moths pose more than a theoretic risk in our area. You, too, can contribute to ongoing monitoring efforts by reporting possible winter-moth sightings through a survey sponsored by the Massachusetts Natural Resources Collaborations ([massnrc.org](http://massnrc.org)). Please check the Naturalists’ Club website in early November for a link to this year’s survey!

Many thanks to Jeff Boetter for describing his experiences with the winter moth, and to Peter and Joan Genereux for sharing the moth-damaged leaf shown on the previous page.

Finally, please join us at the Naturalists’ Club meeting in January 2015 for Jeff Boettner’s talk on his work to control the winter moth here in Massachusetts. Details will appear in the next issue of our newsletter.

~ Diane Genereux ~

<sup>1</sup> Roland, J. and D. G. Embree 1995. Biological Control of the winter moth. *Annual Review of Entomology* 40:475-492.

<sup>2</sup> *Refuge Notebook*  
[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kenai/what\\_we\\_do/community/07292011.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kenai/what_we_do/community/07292011.html)

<sup>3</sup> Elkinton, J.S. *et al.* 2014. Invasion spread of *Operophtera brumata* in northeastern United States and hybridization with *O. bruceata* Biological Invasions. *In press*.

<sup>4</sup> Jepsen *et al.* (2008). Climate change and outbreaks of the geometrids *Operophtera brumata* and *Epirrita autumnata* in subarctic birch forest: evidence of a recent outbreak range expansion. *J. Anim. Ecol.* 77, 257-264.

## 2014 OCTOBER to DECEMBER

### Hike the Monument Mountain Reservation,

Great Barrington

Saturday, October 4, from 9 a.m. to around 1 p.m.

Leader: Bob Cantin

Registration: Call Bob or Dawn or leave a message (413-536-4126)

Meeting Place: Friendly’s parking lot, just off Exit 3 from the Mass Pike in Westfield

Join us on this moderate, 3-mile hike up Monument Mountain. We will be taking the Hickey Trail to the summit. Once there, we can enjoy the picturesque scenery, and views of Mt. Greylock and the Catskills. We will then hike past Inscription Rock and on to Devil’s Pulpit. We will stop here to eat lunch and to view the quartzite boulders. Please wear sturdy footwear and bring lunch, water, and your binoculars. Total trip time is approximately 3 hours.

## OCTOBER MEETING

### VOYAGE OF THE ANT

Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: James Dina



What was it like to live in New England as the natives did before Europeans hit these shores? James Dina didn’t just wonder about this, he set out to experience it. He traveled the Connecticut River in a birch-bark canoe that he made the same way Native Americans would have made it: with stone and bone tools that he fashioned himself.

Come hear James speak about how he harvested materials, made flint knives and basalt axes, and constructed a beautiful and functional canoe. James will bring his bark baskets and handmade tools to show us. Through a slide show he will take us through the construction of his canoe and his ensuing voyage to recreate the spirit of forgotten ages.

## **A Stroll at Ludlow Reservoir, Ludlow**

Thursday, October 16, starting at 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter

Registration and Meeting Place: Please call Collette (413-786-1805)

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. Bad weather cancels.

## **Benedict Pond, Beartown State Forest, Monterey**

Saturday, October 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Registration: Call Bill (413-533-2153)

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 plus 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 something to eat and drink.

## **Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Wales**

Saturday, October 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leader: Sonya Vickers

Registration: Call Sonya (413-566-3406)

Meeting place: Hampden Mini-Mall in Hampden, at the intersection of Allen St., East Longmeadow Road, Wilbraham Rd., and Somers Rd.

We will have the rare privilege of a guided tour of the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Monson. This 8,000-acre preserve was set up by Alfred Norcross in 1939 as a place where species displaced by human expansion could continue to prosper. He brought parts of the New Jersey Pine barrens to Monson: trees, rocks, soil, ferns and even limestone cliffs. Our special walk and tour will be led by the staff at Norcross. After our walk, there will be picnic tables available, so bring along lunch and something to drink.

## **Biking the Farmington Valley Trail, East Granby, CT**

Saturday, October 25, at 12:30 p.m.

Leaders: Debbie and Dave Lovejoy, Diane Genereux

Registration: Please contact Diane at [dianegenereux@gmail.com](mailto:dianegenereux@gmail.com) or 413-388-2830

Meeting Place: Bike trail parking area on Route 20 in East Granby, CT, near the Granby town line.

This level, multi-use trail extends north to the Big Y in the center of Westfield and south all the way to Long Island Sound. We'll plan to ride towards Simsbury, CT, approximately 10 miles one-way, where we can stop in town for a snack or beverage. Whether we then continue south or return to the starting point will depend on the wishes of the group. Let's expect to stop a few times along the way to see what plants or animals catch our interest.

## **Walden Pond Revisited, Concord**

Saturday, November 1, from 7:30 a.m. until about 6 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call Nancy or Tom to sign up (413-536-4126)

Meeting Place: AMF Bowling Alley off I-291 near the Mass Pike entrance, behind the huge white statue.

Let's take a trip back in time to visit Walden Pond, the place where Henry David Thoreau experimented with simple living. He lived for nearly two years in a modest cabin that he built here. We will take a guided tour to Thoreau's original cabin site at Walden Pond State Reservation, and then hike around the Pond on the easy trail that encircles it. Afterward, in Concord, we'll see if we can pay a call to Ralph Waldo Emerson's homeplace or walk a historic trail in town. We'll meet and carpool (there is a \$5 fee per car for parking). Bring your lunch, a drink and any favorite Thoreau quotes.

## **Biking as Transportation, Westfield**

Sunday, November 9, starting at 11 a.m.

Leaders: Debbie and Dave Lovejoy, Diane Genereux

Registration: Please contact Diane at [dianegenereux@gmail.com](mailto:dianegenereux@gmail.com) or 413-388-2830

Meeting Place: Parking area near Shaker Farms Country Club

During Summer 2014, the Columbia Greenway Trail was extended northward, and now reaches the Rite Aid/Big Y shopping area on East Silver Street in Westfield. This trail extension offers opportunities to fetch groceries by bike, without riding on the road. Come join us for a late-season ride! We'll first ride south, then north to Big Y, where we'll perhaps stop for a snack before heading back to Shaker Farms. Along the way, we'll chat about strategies for carrying cargo by bike. We'll ride if it rains, but not if there's snow or ice.

No sun - no moon!  
No morn - no noon -  
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.  
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member -  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -  
November! ~ Thomas Hood

## NOVEMBER MEETING


**THE NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT KESTREL PROJECT:  
Restoration and Research**

Wednesday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: Tom Sayers

Here in the Northeast, populations of the American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) have declined by as much as 80% in the last 30 years, due largely to destruction of favorable nesting sites, reduction in prey populations, and loss of habitat. In 2009, Tom Sayers and John Stake decided to install five nestboxes, which produced seven kestrel nestlings that year. Their initial efforts led to the Northeast Connecticut Kestrel Project (NECKP) which, today, is a restoration and research project that uses tracking technologies including leg bands, radio

telemetry, and geolocators to study kestrels' patterns of movement, mate choice, and dispersal. A deeper understanding of the life history of these birds will lead to better-informed decisions on land use planning, habitat management, and the protection of critical breeding and migration stopover points.

To hear more about these and other projects underway at NECKP, please join us for a talk by co-founder Tom Sayers. He taught in the Tolland Public School system for 35 years, and is now focused on applying his long-standing interest in birding and wildlife management to protect the American Kestrel.

**Ashley Reservoir, Holyoke**

Thursday, November 20, at 9 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter

Registration and Meeting Place: Please call Collette (413-786-1805)

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

**Sofinowski Land Preserve, Southwick**

Saturday, November 22, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Leader: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Please call Nancy or Tom to sign up (413-536-4126)

Meeting Place: Sofinowski Land Preserve, Mort Vining Road, Southwick

In a cooperative venture with the Commonwealth, the Town of Southwick set aside this old farm property as part of their open-space plan. The 127 acres are in the process of succession from agricultural use back to a more natural, forested landscape. This changing landscape offers many opportunities to explore how nature recovers from human use. We'll see how forests encroach upon and ultimately take over fields, and explore how the new vegetation provides unique niches for wildlife. Join us as we explore some of the established trails that meander from field to wetland to upland forest.

Bitter cold  
autumn wind -  
shivering lips.  
~ Michael P. Garofalo,  
*Cuttings*

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

Saturday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (413-525-4697)

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

Join us and walk off those calories from Thanksgiving dinner! We will start by hiking around a lovely pond with plenty of beaver activity. We will continue to the summit of Peaked Mountain with its incredible vistas of the valley below. From the summit, 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! Rain cancels.


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

Sunday, December 7, starting at 10 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (413-525-4697)

Meeting Place: Crystal Springs Mall, Routes 9 and 202, Belchertown

It's that time of the year again, folks! Our destination is Gate 15, which is a portal to a wonderful loop hike, with great views of the northern section of the Quabbin – lots of stone walls and farm sites. There is a good chance we'll see eagles, and perhaps hear loons. In past years, we have seen moose tracks on the sandy beaches. It's a great hike, and a beautiful area to explore. Bring your lunch, hot drink, and binoculars. Please dress appropriately for the weather; wear sturdy hiking shoes. Call us if you are coming. Rain or snow cancels.

**Evening with Naturalists, Hampden**

Saturday December 13 at 7 p.m.

Host: Sonya Vickers

Registration and Meeting Place: Please call Sonya (413-566-3406)

This is the 21st year in a row for the Evening with Naturalists, and the 10th year it has been scheduled to take place at Sonya's home in Hampden. Of course, snow is possible at this time of year, so sometimes, the event has been cancelled (last year). We'll gather around the fireplace and share stories and holiday food. You are welcome to bring a dessert, favorite snack or a bottle of wine. Please call Sonya to let her know that you would like to attend. She will be glad to give you directions. If there is a blizzard, Sonya will call to cancel.



Every year at just this time,  
In cold and dark December,  
Families around the world  
All gather to remember,  
With presents and with parties,  
With feasting and with fun,  
Customs and traditions  
for people old and young.

~ Helen H. Moore

**DECEMBER MEETING**

**DECEMBER HOLIDAY MEETING**

Wednesday, December 17, starting at 7 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 (413-564-0895).

**Mittineague Meander, West Springfield**

Thursday, December 18, at 9 a.m.

Leader: Colette Potter

Registration and Meeting Place: Please call Collette (413-786-1805)

Here's hoping for a beautiful day to walk through Mittineague Park with other intrepid naturalists ~ a day to enjoy nature. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels.

**Forest Park Excursion, Springfield**

Saturday, December 20, from 9 a.m. to noon

Leader: Tom and Nancy Condon

Registration: Call Nancy or Tom to sign up (413-536-4126)

Meeting Place: Parking lot near the old Skate House by Porter Lake in Forest Park. There is an entrance fee for vehicles upon entering the park.

At 735 acres, Forest Park is one of the top ten largest city parks in the United States. There are miles of trails leading to hilltops, ponds, memorials, and streams. Join us for an excursion along some of these trails and learn a little history of the park along the way. Be prepared for hills and dingles – walking up and down is common practice in the park!

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





## DESSERT TABLE

### Coordinator

As we announced back in Spring 2014, Colette Potter is stepping down from her job as Dessert Table Coordinator.

Thank you again for your work on this over the years,  
Colette!

Colette has kindly agreed to continue in this role until a new Coordinator can be identified.

Now, we're working on a plan for the Dessert Table for this season and beyond. One possibility is that the people who bring desserts in a given month could serve as Dessert Table Co-Coordinators for that month. Or a small group of people could decide to share the responsibility, rotating either by month, or in seasonal blocks.

If you are interested in helping with the dessert table, please contact Dave Gallup (413-525-4697) as soon as possible.  
Thank you!

### Wikipedia on Autumn

The Winter Solstice, also known as Midwinter, occurs around December 21 or 22 each year in the Northern Hemisphere and June 20 or 21 in the Southern Hemisphere. It occurs on the shortest day or longest night of the year, sometimes said to astronomically mark the beginning or middle of a hemisphere's winter. The word "solstice" derives from the Latin words for "sun" and "to stand still", and refers to a time when the sun's path across the sky, as viewed from Earth, seems to stand still. Worldwide, interpretation of the event varies from culture to culture, but most hold a recognition of rebirth, involving festivals, gatherings, rituals or other celebrations. Many cultures celebrate, or celebrated, a holiday near the winter solstice; examples of these include Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Years, Pongal, Yalda and many other festivals of light. The solstice seems to have been celebrated since neolithic times as a special moment of the year, as suggested by physical remains in the layouts of late Neolithic and Bronze Age archeological sites like Stonehenge and New Grange in the British Isles: The primary axes of both of these monuments seem to have been carefully aligned on a sight-line framing the winter solstice sunrise (New Grange) and the winter solstice sunset (Stonehenge). The winter solstice may have been immensely important because communities were not assured to live through the winter and had to be prepared during the previous nine months. Starvation was common in winter between January to April, also known as the famine months. In temperate climes, the midwinter festival was the last feast celebration before deep winter began. Many cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter, so it was nearly the only time of year when a supply of fresh meat was available. The majority of wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking at this time.  
~ Winter Solstice ~ Wikipedia

## EVENTS offered by other organizations

### Events at Laughing Brook

These programs at Laughing Brook require registration with Mass Audubon (800-710-4550) and, in most cases, a registration fee. For more information, visit the Mass Audubon website at [www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org). Laughing Brook is located on Main Street in Hampden.

*Sunday, October 12, from 1 to 4 p.m.*

#### Winter Wildlife: Animals Preparing for Winter.

*Pete Vancini, Laughing Brook Caretaker*

*Saturday, October 18, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.*

#### Third Saturday Nature Series: Squirrels and Chipmunks

*Kevin Kopchynski, Laughing Brook Naturalist.*

*Saturday, November 1, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.*

#### Foliage and Cider.

*Pete Vancini, Laughing Brook Caretaker*

*Saturday, November 15, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.*

#### Third Saturday Nature Series.

*Kevin Kopchynski, Laughing Brook Naturalist.*

### Events at Arcadia

To register, or for more information, please call Arcadia at (800-710-4550), or visit [massaudubon.org](http://massaudubon.org). Arcadia is located at 127 Combs Road in Easthampton.

#### Winter Solstice Celebration at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

*Sunday, December 21 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.*

For more information call Arcadia (413-584-3009).

On the first day of winter,  
the earth awakens to the cold touch of itself.  
Snow knows no other recourse except  
this falling, this sudden letting go  
over the small gnomed bushes, all the emptying trees.  
Snow puts beauty back into the withered and malnourished,  
into the death-wish of nature and the deliberate way  
winter insists on nothing less than deference.  
waiting all its life, snow says, "Let me cover you."

~ Laura Lush, *The First Day of Winter*



# THE NATURALISTS' CLUB 2014 - 2015

## FROM THE TREASURER

The fall of the year is the traditional time to renew membership in the Club. Those of you with a "14-15" (or later) on your newsletter mailing label have paid for the coming year. Otherwise, your dues are owed for the year starting September 2014. 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

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Name

Address

Phone Number

Email

Requests for programs/trips

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



The NATURALISTS' CLUB was founded in 1969 for the purpose of actively promoting knowledge, appreciation, and preservation of our natural environment. It is an all-volunteer non-profit organization.

Education is a main focus of The NATURALISTS' CLUB. Programming, with an emphasis on local natural history, is designed to create camaraderie among people of diverse interests through experiences deepening their appreciation of nature. Activities are geared to acquaint the layperson with the natural world, mostly through field trips. Monthly meetings are held at the Science Museum at the Quadrangle in Springfield, Mass. Most field trips and programs are free.

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