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The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

Springfield Science Museum at the Quadrangle, Springfield, Massachusetts http://naturalist-club.org/

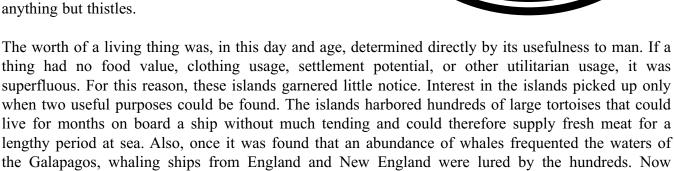
SCHEDULE - OF - ACTIVITIES

APRI	L						
7	Saturday	Vernal Pool Investigation, Wilbraham					
14	Saturday	Atlantic Salmon Fry Stocking, <i>Granby</i>					
15	Sunday	Early Signs of Spring, Westfield					
18	Wednesday	APRIL MEETING: It's Showtime! – Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth"					
21	Saturday	Hubbard River Gorge, Granville					
21	Saturday	Introduction to Birdwatching, Westfield					
MAY							
5	Saturday	New England Forests: Past and Present, <i>Petersham</i>					
12	Saturday	Wildflower Walk at Robinson State Park, <i>Agawam</i>					
16	Wednesday	MAY MEETING: Snakes of the Pioneer Valley					
19	Saturday	Connecticut River Canoe Trip – Stage 1: Vermont Line to Barton's Cove					
20	Sunday	Enjoying the Birds of Spring, Westfield					
20	Sunday	Spring Wildflowers, Westfield					
JUNE							
2	Saturday	Wetland and Watercourse Communities, Westfield					
3	Sunday	It's a Small World, East Longmeadow					
9	Saturday	Connecticut River Canoe Trip – Stage 2: Turners Falls to Sunderland					
9	Saturday	Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Westfield					
16	Saturday	Lilly Pond Water Management Area, Goshen					
23	Saturday	Identifying Local Native Trees, Westfield					

NATURALIST'S **CORNER**

Challenge your Perspectives — a Naturalist considers the Galapagos Islands

From the 16th to mid 18th century, sailors and naturalists looked upon the Galapagos Islands with distaste and disinterest. It was "evilly enchanted ground," according to Herman Melville, author of Moby Dick. In search of water, sailors were driven away still parched. In search of soil for the possibility of settlement, explorers found only worthless, stone-filled wasteland, incapable of growing anything but thistles



naturalists were more inclined to find out more about these seemingly desolate islands.

In the 1680's, author, self-proclaimed naturalist, and buccaneer (part adventurer and part thief), William Dampier promoted interest in these islands with his keen observational skill and popularized book. His interest as a naturalist I found in stark contrast to my interest as a naturalist. I have wanted to go to the Galapagos since I was a teenager. Every place on this planet that offers a fascinating natural history is on my list of places to go. Who could resist huge centenarian tortoises wandering around munching cactus? Dampier spoke of their ugliness, and how delicious their meat was. I can't wait to encounter shorebirds and fur seals that show no fear of humans. Dampier reported how stupid they were to allow themselves to be clubbed so easily. I'm anxious to see these volcanic ridges that push their way up out of the sea, whereas Dampier just saw a "rocky and barren" terrain. This place was, according to Dampier, "fit for no use, not so much as to burn." In my view, this place is a naturalist's dream.

A 21st century traveling naturalist looks upon the Galapagos Islands much differently than earlier naturalists did. I cannot help but think about how looking at the same thing from different perspectives paints our impression. Do perspectives vary when a group of naturalists from the club go out on a walk and regard something curious on the trail? What do you see when you look at an acorn? Do you see the start of a small seedling? Do you see the potential for a big strong oak tree? Do you see a meal for a

Galapagos Islands....continued.

squirrel? Do you see the oak flour that can be made by pulverizing the acorn? Our own perspective definitely influences everything we see.

What do you see when you look at a snake? Do you see a scary creature to be avoided or a fascinating animal filling an available niche in nature? When you see a deer, do you see a beautiful and graceful creature or a thief of garden vegetables? How about a Canada goose? Do you see an admirable bird that flies hundreds of miles in migration each spring and fall and steadfastly keeps one mate for life, or a dirty bird who poops on lawns and soils ponds and lakes with guano?

We'll give opportunity for you to challenge your perspectives in many trips planned this quarter. View "An Inconvenient Truth" during the April meeting, in which Al Gore shares his researched perspective of global warming. In May, enjoy a talk from a young speaker who finds a fascination with snakes. Attend hikes and trips where you can swap perspectives of the many wonderful things to be found out in nature here in western Massachusetts. And, I don't believe it is too late to sign up to come to the Galapagos with the club in July. Find out for yourself whether they are "destitute heaps of infernal creation" (Herman Melville) or a fascinating lesson in evolution.

Nancy Condon

Vernal Pool Investigation Wilbraham

Saturday April 7, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Meeting Place: 5-Town Plaza, Springfield, at the intersection of Cooley and Allen. We will gather at 10 a.m. at the parking lot at Burlington Coat Factory and then travel to Fountain Park in Wilbraham.

Registration: Please call to register so if bad weather forces cancellation, I can contact you.

Vernal pools are amazing refuges for unique forms of wildlife. Because these pools dry up in summer, they don't support the fish that otherwise would feed on the frog and salamander eggs deposited there. Vernal pools are isolated wetlands, not connected with flowing water, and are designated as protected because of their special role in the environment.

We will walk to a series of vernal pools and investigate their contents using field microscopes. You might want to bring binoculars too, for birds find this special habitat as interesting as we do.

TRAVEL TO THE GALAPAGOS!

Naturalists' Club Recording Secretary Sonya Vickers, will be leading a Naturalists' Galapagos on July 2 -

leading a Naturalists' trip to the Galapagos on July 2 - 11, 2007. If this sounds interesting to you, how would you like to plan an adventurous trip to the Galapagos? The ten-day trip will include a fourday island cruise aboard the ship Galapagos Legend and five nights in comfortable hotels in Quito. Breakfasts and all shipboard meals are included as is the airline transportation. We will also have the chance to explore the highaltitude volcano in Quito, Ecuador, and you will have the option of extending your trip to Peru and Machu Picchu. At \$3552, the price for this trip is quite competitive with other similar trips. Anyone interested should contact Sonya at 413-566-3406 or, she gallivanting, þγ e-mail at sevickers@charter.net.

The NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER (http://naturalist-club.org/) · APRIL - JUNE · 2007

Atlantic Salmon Fry Stocking, *Granby*

Saturday, April 14, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon

Meeting Place: Westfield State Commuter Parking Lot **Registration:** Please call 564-0895 to register, so if bad

weather forces cancellation we can contact you.

For over 30 years, dedicated national and state fishery biologists have been working to re-establish a population of Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River watershed. Nearly 6 million eggs are fertilized, hatched, and released as fry into the tributaries of New England's largest and most important river system. These efforts are beginning to pay off. For the past three years, the number of adult salmon returning to the river has increased. More than 200 returned this past year.

Now you too can have the opportunity to assist these magnificent creatures in their struggle to return to our backyard. Join us and help stock the fry back into Dickenson and Munn Brooks in Granby, Mass. Come prepared to walk short distances over rugged riverbanks. If you have waders, they could be helpful, so bring them along. Bring a lunch and plenty of water to drink.

Early Signs of Spring, *Westfield*

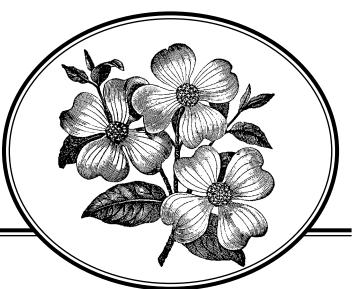
Sunday, April 15, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Leader: Art O'Leary

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley

Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary.

Seek out early signs of long-awaited spring by exploring the Sanctuary and experiencing the subtle changes in nature as it transforms from winter into spring apparel. Vernal pools, awakening plants, shrubs, trees, and returning bird and animal species will be discussed. Compile blooming reports, bird censuses, and phenology charts to compare to past records. Heavy rain cancels.



APRIL MEETING

It' Showtime!

Wednesday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth"

Join us for this month's meeting as we show "An Inconvenient Truth," a movie you will enjoy and at the same time learn what global warming is all about. In accepting Best Documentary Oscar for "An Inconvenient Truth" in February, Al Gore said, "It's not a political issue. It's a moral issue. We have everything we need to get started, with the possible exception of the will to act. That's a renewable resource. Let's renew it."

Director Davis Guggenheim eloquently weaves the science of global warming with Mr. Al Gore's personal history and lifelong commitment to reversing the effects of global climate change. A longtime advocate for the environment, Gore presents a wide array of facts and information in a thoughtful and compelling way. "Al Gore strips his presentations of politics, laying out the facts for the audience to draw their own conclusions, in a charming, funny, and engaging style, and by the end has everyone on the edge of their seats, gripped by his haunting message," said Guggenheim. "An Inconvenient Truth" is not a story of despair but rather a rallying cry to protect the one earth we all share. "It is now clear that we face a deepening global climate crisis that requires us to act boldly, quickly, and wisely," said Gore.

We will be starting the meeting promptly at 7:30 p.m. so the movie can be shown in its entirety (90 minutes).

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Hubbard River Gorge, Granville

Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon? Leaders: Bill Fontaine (533-2153). Call to register. Meeting Place: Dunkin Donuts parking lot, Southwick,

on Route 10/202.

Come explore the Hubbard River Gorge! On this walk/hike, we'll explore the Hubbard River Gorge in Granville State Forest, Granville, Massachusetts, the hunting and fishing grounds of the Tunxis Indians. 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 and then drops 450 feet over some 2.5 miles as it makes its way to Barkhamsted Reservoir in Connecticut. For much of its course, the river flows through Granville State Forest, an underappreciated jewel among Western Massachusetts state forests.

We'll walk along a gated, paved forest road and follow the river south toward Connecticut. When we've had our fill, we can go back the way we came or, if water levels allow, we can consider other options for our return trip. If you wish, bring a sandwich and a drink and tarry a while longer to enjoy lunch along this beautiful river

Introduction to Birdwatching, Westfield

Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leader: Tim Parshall

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley

Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary.

This walk will be a great way for beginners to start looking for and identifying spring birds returning to the area. We will talk about the most important characteristics of birds to look for so that you can identify them easily and you will be introduced to the basics of using binoculars effectively. Bring your own pair of binoculars or borrow one from us. Bring a bird identification book if you have one.

Tim Parshall is an assistant professor of biology at Westfield State College whose specialties include forest ecology, ecological history, and environmental education.

New England Forests: Past and Present. Petersham

Saturday, May 5, from 10:15 a.m. to mid-afternoon

Leader: Dietrich Schlobohm (788-4125)

Meeting Place: In the center of Petersham, at the junction of East Street and Route 32 by the town common at 10:15 a.m. Travel time from Springfield is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. We are also urging people to carpool, meeting at 9 a.m. in the Town and Country parking lot in West Springfield, near the Route 5 and 91 interchange.

Join us for a morning visit to the Harvard Forest Museum, in Petersham, Mass., with its stunning dioramas illustrating land use change from colonial times to the present. In the afternoon we will hike the Swift River Valley ~ a beautiful forested area along the Swift River with beaver activity, abandoned farms, wildlife, spring flowers, and what else? Bring a lunch. Proper footwear is recommended. Dietrich Schlobohm, our trip leader for this outing, is an environmental historian. Definitely call him to register and for more details.

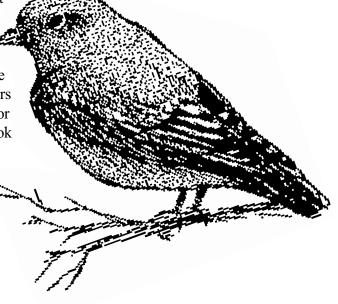
Wildflower Walk at Robinson State Park, Agawam

Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leaders: Dan Breivogel and Jack Megas (782-2962). Meeting Place: Village Shops, old Route 57, opposite

post office in center of Feeding Hills

Join two wildflower enthusiasts who led a walk here 20 years ago! We then found Dutchman's breeches, spice bush, bloodroot, red trillium, trout lily, hepatica, Jack-inthe-Pulpit, pussytoes, and more. Bring your wildflower books. Heavy rain cancels.



MAY MEETING

Snakes of the Pioneer Valley

Wednesday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: Misha Herscu

Misha Herscu is a high school sophomore in Amherst, Massachusetts. As a middle schooler, he wrote a book entitled Snakes of the Pioneer Valley. This is a field guide to snakes of the area, with illustrative photographs and

descriptions of habitat, life cycle and feeding, as well as information about behavior. Snakes are not Misha's only interest. He has always had a deep love of nature and of writing.

Tonight, Misha will share his knowledge about snakes with us. Learn what each species looks like, interesting defense mechanisms, where to seek them out, and other fascinating snake attributes. Misha will also share information on the process he went through in writing this field guide, which has been donated to many nature centers and schools throughout Western Massachusetts. Books will be available for purchase this evening.

Connecticut River Canoe Trip.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895) From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates:

Stage 1: Saturday, May 19, Vermont Line to Barton's Cove – 15 miles

Stage 2: Saturday, June 9, Turners Falls to Sunderland – 11 miles

Stage 3: Saturday, July 14, Sunderland to Northampton – 13.5 miles

Stage 4: Saturday, August 18, Northampton to Holyoke – 11 miles

Stage 5: Saturday, September 8, Holyoke to Enfield
- 18.5 miles

Registration: Please call to register.

Meeting Place: varies, so please call ahead.

Join Tom and Nancy Condon to canoe the entire length of the Connecticut River through Massachusetts. Over the next five months, we will canoe different reaches of the river as it travels from the Vermont line to the Connecticut line. Come paddle one, two, or for bragging rights, complete all five sections. The river through Massachusetts is quite varied. In the north, it winds through a bucolic setting of farms and forests. As we approach the center of the state, we travel back in time and pass historic town commons and the industrial towns of Holyoke and South Hadley. The lower stretches of river bring us to the modern city of Springfield and all the issues that face rivers in these settings.

Join us for this unique experience. Call ahead to reserve your space. We have canoes and all the gear needed if you do not.

Enjoying the Birds of Spring, Westfield

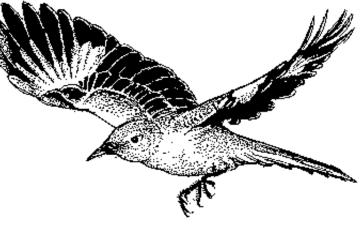
Sunday, May 20, at 8:00 a.m. for 2 hours

Leader: Janice Zepko

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary.

This workshop will focus on the identification of birds by sight and sound. We will walk through a variety of habitats in the Sanctuary during the height of spring migration, stopping to enjoy both resident songbirds and tropical migrants as they feed and sing in the newly budding trees. We may encounter as many as fifty species, including warblers, scarlet tanagers and Baltimore orioles. Bring a pair of binoculars if you have one. Heavy rain cancels.

Janice is active in the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, serving as field trip and publications chair since 1995 and participating in a variety of annual bird censuses.



Spring Wildflowers, Westfield

Sunday, May 20, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary provides an opportunity to see a variety of native wildflower species, some of which are more common here than elsewhere in the area. This walk will focus on the species growing wild in the woods and fields of the Sanctuary and will not visit the Wildflower Garden. Heavy rain cancels.

Wetland and Watercourse Communities, Westfield

Saturday, June 2, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Leader: Art O'Leary

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary.

Wetlands and watercourses are highly productive ecosystems, with diverse plants and wildlife. Walk about the Sanctuary to a marsh, to river and stream banks, a spring, floodplain, and swamp, all the while learning about the animal and plant communities found in each and how they interact. This watercourse sojourn delves into the many useful functions of wetlands and wet areas found in the Wildlife Sanctuary.

It's a Small World, East Longmeadow

Sunday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Leader: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Meeting Place: Heritage Park parking area on Rt. 83, North Main St. in East Longmeadow, next to Big Y. **Registration:** Please call to register so if bad weather

forces cancellation, Sonya can contact you.

Have you ever wondered about the small world just out of sight but everywhere around you? Join Sonya on a short walk and use field microscopes for a view into the world of very small things. We will be able to see the beauty inside small flowers, gaze into the eyes of small insects, and view life in pond water. Open your eyes to a very different world, a nature hike in miniature!

Connecticut River Canoe Trip

Turners Falls to Sunderland

Saturday, June 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon. Please see write-up

at May 19, above.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Westfield

Saturday, June 9, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Leader: Tim Parshall

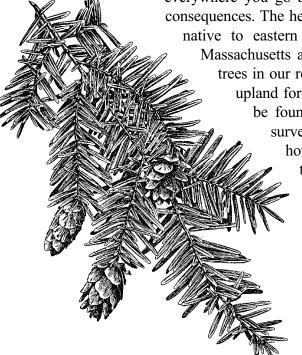
Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary.

Non-native species are becoming more common everywhere you go and often have serious ecological consequences. The hemlock woolly adelgid is an insect native to eastern Asia that has recently reached

Massachusetts and may kill most or all hemlock trees in our region. This insect is present in the upland forests at Stanley Park but has yet to be found in the wildlife sanctuary. Help survey the park for the adelgid and learn

how you can volunteer to monitor for the adlegid in the Westfield River

Watershed so that we can better understand the threat of this insect to our forests in the future.



Lilly Pond Water Management Area, Goshen

Saturday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.? **Leaders:** Bill Fontaine and Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: Commuter Parking Lot, Westfield State College.

Registration: Call Bill (533-2153)

Come visit the remarkable Lilly Pond Water Management Area, an undisturbed area of some 280 acres in Goshen, Mass. This woods walk over mostly level terrain will take us to a 30-acre high-quality acidic bog that has been recognized by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as a priority natural community for protection. The bog itself contains a 20-acre dwarf shrub mat surrounded by an open-water moat that separates the bog from the upland woods. The shrub mat is dominated by leatherleaf, but it also includes herbaceous species such as pitcher plant and sundew. The forest surrounding the bog

consists of hemlock, red maple, yellow birch, and red oak. To the south, the bog transitions to a spruce-fir forest and to the east to a red maple swamp. This remote area is home to moose, bear, coyotes, fishers, otters, and beavers.

We'll meet in the commuter lot at Westfield State College for the 45-minute drive to Goshen. Bring sturdy footwear, something to drink, and plenty of bug repellant!

Identifying Local Native Trees,

Westfield

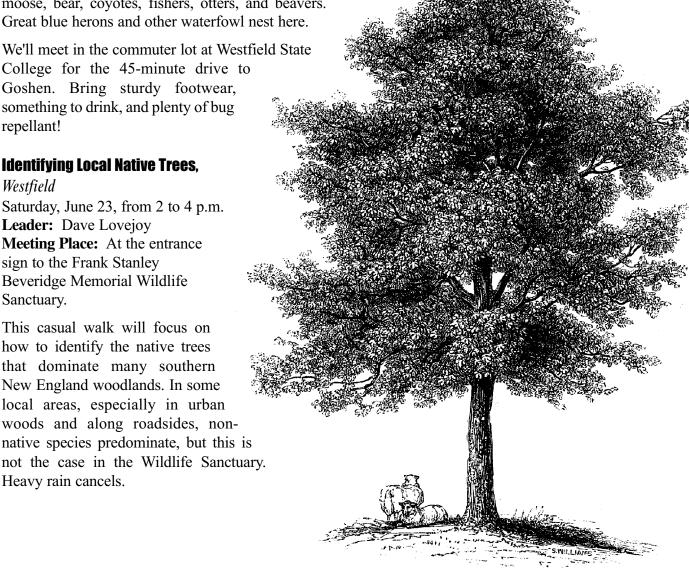
Saturday, June 23, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy

Meeting Place: At the entrance sign to the Frank Stanley Beveridge Memorial Wildlife

Sanctuary.

This casual walk will focus on how to identify the native trees that dominate many southern New England woodlands. In some local areas, especially in urban woods and along roadsides, nonnative species predominate, but this is not the case in the Wildlife Sanctuary. Heavy rain cancels.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Edible Flowers and Herbs, Greenfield

Sunday, July 15, from 1 p.m. till ?? ~ Rain or Shine

Leader: Call Joan Presz (569-6663) after 6 p.m. (unavailable after Thursday, July 12th.)

Meeting Place: Mass. Information Center in Greenfield by 1 p.m.

Registration: Cost of luncheon, \$15 per person, must be paid by Monday, July 9. Include names and phone numbers.

At last year's Lavender Tea several people asked if we could have a luncheon with flowers and herbs, so a luncheon has been arranged combined with a guided garden tour of daylilies and herbs at Glendale Gardens in Greenfield. Recipes of dishes served will be provided. At least 20 must sign up for the luncheon to happen, but the garden tour is free.

Stump Sprouts Weekend, West Hawley

Friday, September 7, through Sunday, September 9

Time Span: From Friday evening dinner through a Sunday luncheon

Leaders: Dietrich and Julie Schlobohm (788-4125)

Registration: All-inclusive cost for two nights lodging and six meals is \$129 per person. Make check payable to The Naturalists' Club and send to Dietrich Schlobohm, 52 Poplar Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089. Indicate in your registration your roommate preference. Reservations and a 50% deposit must be received no later than June 1. This trip will be cancelled if 18 people are not paid by that date. Call Dietrich or Julie for more information.

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

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

Limit: 20 people

Nominating Committee and Upcoming Elections

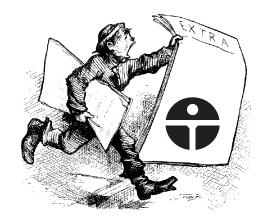
Elections for officers and board members will be held at the May meeting. Prior to the May meeting, club members may contact anyone on the Nominating Committee to make additional nominations. Members of the Nominating Committee are Delores Gentile (783-6113), Colette Potter (786-1805), and Karen Daniels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

The following (incumbents) are running for office:

President ~ Dave Gallup Vice President ~ Nancy Condon Treasurer ~ Dave Lovejoy Corresponding Secretary ~ Suzanne Gallup Recording Secretary ~ Sonya Vickers

Directors:

Tom Condon
Bill Fontaine
Jack Megas
Dietrich Schlobohm



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



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Vice President Nancy Condon (413-564-0895)science@condon.net

Treasurer Dave Lovejoy (413-572-5307)

Director

Corresponding Secretary Suzanne Gallup (413-525-4697)dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu davesuzy3@hotmail.com

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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.

FROM THE TREASURER:

Check your mailing label on this newsletter to see if your dues are paid through the current year ('06-07). If they are not, please send payment to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086 (check payable to The Naturalists' Club). Membership levels are indicated elsewhere on this page. The Officers and Directors wish to thank the increasing number of members who have supported the Club financially by renewing or joining at the Supporting or Sustaining level. If you believe the renewal year indicated on your mailing label is in error, send me an email or give me a call and I'll check my records and respond ASAP. Finally, several members are already paid through '07-08; usually this means that someone paid twice in the same year, and I've just applied the payment to the next year rather than returning the check.

Please note: Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list, so direct all address changes to him.



Become a Club Member or Renew Your Membership for 2007.

Name			
Address			
Phone Number			
Requests for programs/trips			