

The NATURALISTS' CLUB Newsletter

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

J A N U A R Y - M A R C H 2 0 0 8 SCHEDULE • OF • ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

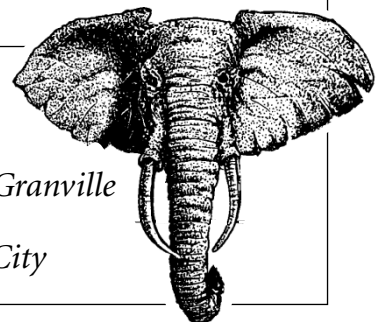
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|----|-----------|--|
| 5 | Saturday | An Evening with Naturalists, <i>Hampden</i> |
| 16 | Wednesday | JANUARY MEETING: The Brazilian Amazon |
| 19 | Saturday | Mt. Alander Trail, <i>Mt. Washington</i> |
| 26 | Saturday | Let's Go! Snow or No Snow: Cross Country Ski, <i>Granville</i> , or Winter Hike, <i>Becket</i> |
| 27 | Sunday | Observing Winter Wildlife at Quabbin, <i>Ware</i> |

FEBRUARY

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|----|-----------|---|
| 2 | Saturday | Snowshoeing: Walking Through Winter, <i>Russell</i> |
| 9 | Saturday | Birds in Winter, <i>Easthampton</i> |
| 13 | Wednesday | FEBRUARY MEETING: Wildlife Rehabilitation |
| 23 | Saturday | Lilly Pond Wildlife Management Area, <i>Goshen</i> |

MARCH

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 9 | Sunday | A Late-Winter Walk, <i>West Springfield</i> |
| 15 | Saturday | Holland Glen, <i>Belchertown</i> |
| 16 | Sunday | How Sweet It Is! Maple Sugaring Time in New England, <i>W. Granville</i> |
| 19 | Wednesday | MARCH MEETING: Edible Wild Plants of New England |
| 29 | Saturday | Bus Trip – American Museum of Natural History, <i>New York City</i> |



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to wish you a very happy and healthy New Year! This past year has been a very good year for the Naturalists' Club. Our membership is growing and the newsletter gives notice of wonderful and exciting field trips offered by the Board. Our monthly meetings are well-attended. The support you have given your Club has made it one of the most outstanding nature clubs in Western Mass. ~ I will even go so far as to say, in the Northeast!

As announced in the last newsletter, the final bequest from the Dorothy Wheat Estate, a generous gift of over \$69,000, was received in 2006. Since then, the Board of Directors and Officers have been working very hard to honor the wishes of Dorothy Wheat and her sister, Phyllis Wheat Smith, so that this gift will be used to fulfill both their wishes and the Club's mission. After much thought and planning, the Board has put this gift to work for the betterment of our natural world: We have established a fund with the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, the interest from which will be dispersed periodically in grants to organizations who are making a difference in our natural world, with a focus on the Western Massachusetts region.

Some of the grants are listed below; others will appear in future newsletters. The establishment of this fund with the Community Foundation serves as both an investment in the future of our Club and a hope for the future of our natural world. Thank you for your support, past and future.

~ *Dave Gallup*

Grants are being made from the Dorothy Anne Wheat Naturalists' Fund, whose objectives are to support land acquisition, habitat protection, wildlife preservation and rehabilitation, and to promote environmental education and an awareness of the natural world. Recent grants include:

- **Fannie Stebbins Memorial Wildlife Refuge** ~ \$500 for refuge maintenance
 - **Springfield Library and Museum Association** ~ \$500 for the winter '07-08 dinosaur exhibit
 - **Mass. Audubon Society, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary** ~ \$1000 for nature education
 - **Connecticut River Watershed Council** ~ \$1000. Possible applications include equipment for a new water quality lab, support of annual Source to Sea Cleanup, continued advocacy work and migratory fisheries restoration program
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Springfield RV Camping and Outdoor Show

February 15-18

This is a huge, annual event put on by the Pioneer Valley Chapter 8 of the North American Family Campers Association (NAFCA). It is held at the Big E fairgrounds in West Springfield, where vendors are spread across three buildings. Everything from camping gear to luxurious RVs are on display. Campgrounds and camping organizations and clubs like us are also represented.

The Springfield Naturalists' Club has once again been invited to participate, an opportunity which we gladly accepted. We will host a booth for the duration of the show so we can let people know about our fantastic club. We'll have brochures and newsletters to hand out, biofacts on display, and a microscope for folks to examine some interesting things.

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth for 3-4 hour time slots. If you are able to donate some well-spent time to the club to staff the booth, Nancy Condon (564-0895) would be very happy to hear from you. Also, if you have some interesting natural artifacts that you would like to put on display, let Nancy know. Call early to get your choice of time slots. We'll have 2-3 people at the booth at any given time, so you will never be alone. It was a lot of fun last year, so join us and represent our club to some potential members.


We rode in silence, in a reflective mood. My mind had gone back to a lonely campfire on a lonely beach among the Indiana dunes. There, years before, Nellie and I had encountered Maurice Maeterlinck's words: "Can we, without putting constraint upon ourselves, confine our thoughts to everyday things at times when we are face to face with the night?" It all came back: the deserted shore, the darkening water, the first stars of evening, our little driftwood fire that glowed and fluttered beside a log half buried in the sand. The light faded, the sky filled with stars, and, under the stars, the waves broke and swept over the sand in a long succession.

I remember we talked of how every wave was formed of a new combination of water droplets. Never would the identical composition be repeated. Each breaking wave was unique just as each human being is unique. No two other people would ever appear on earth alike in all respects to the two who then sat under the stars listening to the rush of water on the shore. The infinite originality of nature, in waves and human beings ~ and stars ~ runs through all the universe.

~ Edwin Way Teale, *Wandering Through Winter (1965)*

JANUARY - MARCH 2008 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

5	Saturday	An Evening with Naturalists, Hampden
16	Wednesday	JANUARY MEETING: The Brazilian Amazon
19	Saturday	Mr. Alexander Trask, Mt. Washington
26	Saturday	Let's Get Snow or No Snow, Cross Country Ski, Granville, or Winter Hike, Becker
30	Sunday	Observing Winter Wildlife at Quabbin, Ware
2	Saturday	Snowedancing, Walking Through Winter, Russell
9	Saturday	Birds in Winter, Easthampton
13	Wednesday	FEBRUARY MEETING: Wildlife Rehabilitation
23	Saturday	Lily Pond Wildlife Management Area, Colver
1	Monday	A Late Winter Walk, West Springfield
15	Saturday	Holland Glen, Belchertown
16	Sunday	How Sweet It Is! Maple Sugaring Time in New England, W. Granville
19	Wednesday	MARCH MEETING: Fiddlehead Plains of New England
29	Saturday	Bus Trip - American Museum of Natural History, New York City



NATURALIST'S CORNER

WILL IT BEAT THE CHAIN OF WEATHER LOOSE

If the wind is not higher the wind, the summer will be filled with rain and drought. If the wind is not higher the wind, the summer will be filled with rain and drought. If the wind is not higher the wind, the summer will be filled with rain and drought.

20th Anniversary Short Course
Friday-Sunday, August 10-12
Hampden, MA

Eastern Green Gnatcatcher (The Big E) Memorial Award: David Spradford

One of the largest memorial shows in the U.S.A. - come see gulls, terns, loons, and other birds of the sea. Special exhibits from the fielding of many naturalists and the Eastern Green Gnatcatcher. Featuring a special Memorial Award display.

Admission charged. Look for newspaper clippings. Free rocks for the birds!

The NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER (http://naturalist-club.org/) • JULY - SEPTEMBER • 2007

CONSERVATION PRIZES AND AWARDS
Monday, July 16, 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Location: Mt. Mansfield State Park, Colchester, VT

Conservation Prizes and Awards will be presented at the meeting. Prizes will be given to the winners of the Conservation Prizes and Awards. Prizes will be given to the winners of the Conservation Prizes and Awards.

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NATURALIST'S CORNER

Can TROPICAL FOREST use CHANGE our FORESTS?

The Amazon River in Brazil seems like a world apart from our New England landscape. We hear about the deforestation occurring in tropical America, but it seems too far distant to have consequences in our daily lives. Yet there is a very real connection between the two forests, a connection, in fact, based upon their differences.

While in Brazil last summer, I saw many tropical birds, like hummingbirds, scarlet tanagers, and Baltimore Orioles. Yes, these species are tropical birds who fly north to gain access to our overload of insects hatching in the spring. These birds need protein for their young to survive and have found the trip north is more advantageous for raising a family than the low but constant supply of insects in the tropics. Contrary to urban legend, mosquitoes are far worse in Massachusetts during the summer than in the tropics. If you really want to see choking clouds of mosquitoes, travel even farther north, to the tundra of Alaska! The insects in Alaska have only a few weeks to complete their life cycle, so they are there all at once. In the tropics, since there are no seasons, life cycles of insects are distributed across the entire year.

Why no seasons in the tropics? The sun here in Massachusetts travels a low arc across the sky in winter and is higher in summer due to the tilt of the earth's axis. At the equator, on the Amazon, the sun is always overhead, for which reason days and nights throughout the year last a constant 12 hours. In July in Massachusetts our long 16 hours of daylight does not leave enough nighttime for things to cool down, so temperatures can exceed 90 degrees, whereas on the Amazon daytime temperatures are always in the 80s, whether January or July, and rarely reach 90.

In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments; there are consequences.

~ Robert Green Ingersoll

Whereas in our New England forest one could easily learn all the different kinds of trees over the course of a summer, in the tropics there is so much variety that learning all the species could not be accomplished in a lifetime, particularly since it is not uncommon to have fewer than two individuals of the same species standing in a square mile. Accordingly, tropical trees cannot rely on wind for pollination as trees here do.

Tropical Forest...continued on next page.

Tropical Forest...continued.

It would seem all this growing material thrives on fertile soil, but unfortunately that is not the case. In our forests, the rotting of vegetation is a slow process, taking years. Because nutrients are stored in the soil, we can cut northern forests, plant crops, and then, if left alone, forests will regrow, as we have witnessed in Massachusetts. In the tropics all the nutrients are in the present vegetation: Leaves fall and immediately decompose, to be recycled quickly into tomorrow's plant. If a tropical forest is cut down so crops can be planted, the nutrients are carted away in the timber. In just a few years the soil will be useless, so yet more forest will have to be cut to support livestock and agriculture. Last summer I stood in a lush green, tall Brazilian jungle. There was no evident leaf litter and the soil was only 2 inches deep. The entire store of nutrients towered over my head.

So how will it affect us if the Brazilian forests continue to be cut? Well, first of all, birds wintering in the Amazon will have greater difficulty finding habitat and food, reducing the numbers of birds traveling north for our bug bonanza. Without the tropical birds nesting here, we will have bugger summers and there will be more insect damage to our forests. Our forests will decline as a consequence of Brazilian forests having been cut. Of course, there are many other ramifications: Forests are excellent at removing CO₂ from the air. And all that Amazonian biodiversity may well harbor undiscovered species that could cure diseases. If a species at the base of a food chain becomes extinct, there could be a domino effect on many other species.

So, constant temperatures and fewer insects seem ideal ~ so ideal there is a lot of competition among all the living things there. Competition breeds increased diversity. Tropical forests are very different from our backyard forests, but their conservation is intimately tied with the conservation of our own forests. They are truly a global resource.

An Evening with Naturalists, Hampden

Saturday, January 5, starting at 7 p.m.

Hostess: Sonya Vickers (566-3406)

Registration: Please call for directions to her home.

It is that time of year again when we have gathered for conversation, food and drink, and a sharing of experiences with nature during the past year. There might be a chance to view the macro world of astronomy or the micro world through a microscope. If you would like, bring a picture or object that shows some part of nature that you would like to share with others.

There will be deserts and refreshments to share – please let us know if you would like to bring something along. Extreme weather cancels. If you have called for directions, you will be notified of any changes.

Naturalists' Club Member Publishes Article

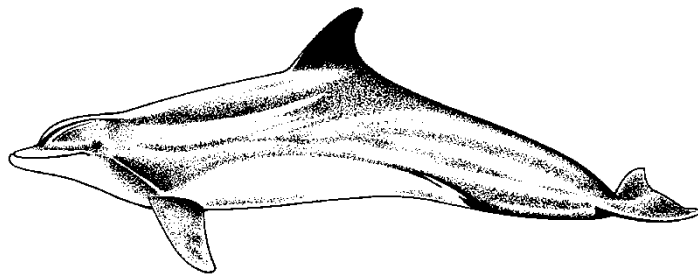
Sonya Vickers has jointly published an article with Donald Williamson in *American Scientist* entitled "The Origins of Larvae." The article explains the hypothesis that all larvae are actually the result of two very different animals that hybridized in the distant past, producing progeny that express the parental genomes in sequence. The caterpillar and the butterfly would therefore be the result of the past union between a crawling organism and a flying insect.

JANUARY MEETING THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

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

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: Sonya Vickers



There are few places as different from Massachusetts as the Brazilian Amazon. Warm yourself up in mid-January listening to what it is like floating down the Amazon. Board member Sonya Vickers spent last summer investigating the biological diversity of Brazil while floating along the middle Amazon River 1,000 miles from its source and 1,000 miles from the sea. It is a land without land, for the river covers the forest and flows through it. She swam with piranhas, then had them for dinner, fed pink dolphins, and photographed monkeys and birds. Come along on a nighttime photographer's hunt for caiman, the Amazon version of the crocodile. Discover how what goes on in this tropical forest actually affects Springfield, Massachusetts.

Alander Mt. Trail, Mt. Washington

Saturday, January 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Meeting Place: Friendly's parking lot, Great Barrington, Mass., on Route 7 just north of the Route 23 intersection.

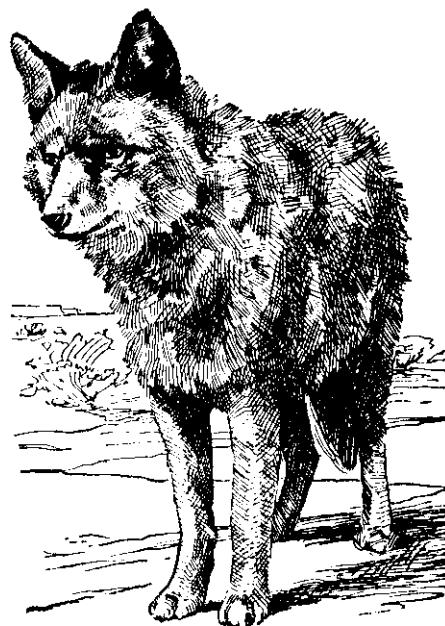
Registration: Call Bill (533-2153)

The views from the summit of Alander Mountain are well worth the effort it takes to get there. On this strenuous 5.5 mile round trip hike, we'll climb to the summit of Alander Mt. on the western escarpment of the Taconic Range to enjoy views overlooking the Harlem Valley and Catskills to the west, Mt. Everett to the north, and Mt. Frissell and Bear Mountain to the east and south. Our journey will take us through a red oak–northern hardwood forest and along a hemlock ravine that channels Ashley Brook, one of the tributaries that feeds Bash Bish Falls. This remote area is home to bear, coyotes, and bobcat.

Bring sturdy footwear and something to eat and drink. It will be cold and windy on the summit, so dress appropriately.

Coyote. That name comes from the Aztec's word for them, *coyotl*, and should, to my way of thinking, always be pronounced ki-o-tee, not ki-oat, the way it sometimes is. Coy-o-tee, that word handed down from long ago, a clumsy approximation of their song, the song of wild things in the moonlight.

~ Sue Hubbell, *A Country Year*



Let's Go! Snow or No Snow: Cross Country Ski, Granville, or Winter Hike, Becket

Saturday January 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895)

Registration: Please call to register, so if bad weather forces cancellation we can contact you.
Potential Meeting Places: Maple Corner Farm, Beech Hill Road in Granville or Becket Historic Quarry off Quarry Road in Becket. Call for directions.

PLAN A: If there's Snow, join us for some cross-country skiing on the extensive trail system at Maple Corner Farm. Bring your own skis or rent them there. This trip is for all ability levels. Ski as a group or split off and ski the trails of your choice and ability level. The group will explore the trails for signs of animals and discuss winter survival strategies used by plants. Bring a lunch or buy something to eat at the farm's snack bar. Treacherous travel conditions may cancel. A \$10 trail pass and \$10 equipment rental apply.

PLAN B: If there's No Snow, join us for a winter hike along the trail system at Becket Historic Quarry Forest Preserve. This demonstration forest abuts the historic quarry and contains miles of trails. Both these preserved areas, which together comprise over 300 acres, are in the care of Becket Land Trust. We will wander a few trails, talk about winter adaptations of plants, and look for signs of animals. Bring a lunch or snack. There is no indoor area in which to eat or sit. No fee to hike here.



Observing Winter Wildlife at Quabbin, Ware

Sunday, January 27, from 11 a.m. into the afternoon

Leaders: Dave Gallup and Jack Megas

Meeting Place: Follow Route 9 East from Belchertown center. Enter the second gate at Quabbin and meet at the Enfield Lookout parking area. Rain, ice, or snow cancels.

Registration: Call Dave (525-4697) or Jack (782-3962)

Quabbin's Enfield Lookout is an excellent vantage point from which to view eagles, deer, turkey, coyote, and other wildlife. We are offering this popular trip again this year to observe winter wildlife in a pristine setting. Dave will lead a short hike at 2 p.m.

Dress warmly and bring binoculars (and a spotting scope if you have one). Dave and Jack will have telescopes along for use by the group. Then join us for dinner at 3:30 p.m. at Apollo Pizza House, near the intersection of Routes 9 and 202.

Snowshoeing: Walking Through Winter, Russell

Saturday, February 2, at 10 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697)

Meeting Place: Westfield State College commuter parking lot

Dave and Suzy will lead us on a snowshoe hike in a beautiful area west of Westfield, in the foothills of the Berkshires. Along the way we could discover animal tracks and learn about the natural history of the area.

Easy pace ~ about three miles roundtrip. It is great exercise and great fun for the entire family, ages 8 and up. No previous experience necessary. The first five people to sign up will get to use snowshoes for free. If you do not have your own snowshoes, rental information is available. Call Dave for any questions.

Birds in Winter, Easthampton

Saturday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to noon

Leaders: Dietrich Schlobohm and Dan Russell

Meeting Place: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary

Registration: Call Dietrich (788-4125) to register. Limited to 20 people.

There are more species of birds wintering in our region than most people realize. Join us at Mass. Audubon's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary to view winter birds and their behaviors. Arcadia's water, fields, brush, and forest provide excellent habitats for wintering birds. We will also explore how birds prepare for winter and what types of survival strategies they utilize in this normally harsh season of the year. Dan Russell is a veteran birder and will be joining us.

Dress warmly and wear warm footwear. The terrain will be basically flat. Don't forget your binoculars.

FEBRUARY MEETING WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Wednesday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speakers: Dee Howe and Michael Catalano

A porcupine who fell from a tree limb through sharp branches, orphaned skunks, a squirrel caught by a cat, a car-struck red fox, a poisoned raccoon ~ all were fostered back to health and ushered back into the wild by the folks at a wildlife rehabilitation facility called "Urban Wildlife." This small mammal rehabilitation facility has nursed and released hundreds of animals since they started in 2001. They have member wildlife rehabilitators in Springfield, Chicopee, Montgomery, Westfield, and Belchertown.

Come find out what to do if you find an injured or ill wild animal. Find out what specialized care is needed for the many species of mammals this facility cares for. Learn the type of food and how it is prepared, and of the behavior and personalities of baby animals. Urban Wildlife's charges come from a variety of situations, and sometimes the licensed rehabbers and volunteers do field rescues.

Rehabilitator Dee Howe and volunteer Michael Catalano will come share their expertise and stories. As their objective is to release their charges back into the wild, depending upon who they have in-house at the time, they may or may not have a furry friend along.

As Urban Wildlife is a totally volunteer facility, Dee is always looking for volunteers willing to feed, clean, construct housing, and care for their many temporary residents, particularly during the busy spring, when baby orphans flood the facility. Please talk to her or Michael if you would like to find out more about volunteering at one of the facilities.

Those who sleep the cold months through are already in dens or caves, or under windfalls: the bears, the chipmunks, the frogs. Those who stay awake ~ Squirrels and rabbits, foxes and wolves, weasels and mice ~ are busy as ever, and soon their tracks are everywhere as the search for food goes on. partridge are in aspen tops feeding on buds, beaver snug in their frozen conical houses feeding on branches below the ice. Deer move into balsam and cedar thickets and blue jays call a challenge to the frozen world. When the bitter cold comes, many will die in the frozen beauty of silver and blue, but life goes on. This is a time of survival, when only the strong will see the spring.

~ Sigurd F. Olson's *Wilderness Days*

Please note: Due to an astronomy event at Tolman Auditorium scheduled concurrently with an eclipse of the moon the evening of the third Wednesday in February, the Naturalists' Club will instead meet the second Wednesday, February 13, at Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum.

Lilly Pond Wildlife Management Area, Goshen

Saturday, February 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Leader: Bill Fontaine

Meeting Place: Town parking area, Goshen

Registration: Call Bill (533-2153)

Come visit the remarkable Lilly Pond Wildlife Management Area in winter! 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 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, and great blue herons and other waterfowl nest here as well.

We'll meet in the town parking area on Route 9 in Goshen for the short drive to the bog. Dress warmly, bring sturdy footwear, and something to drink.

I like to think of the [northern] lights as the ghost dance of the Chippewas. An Indian once told me that when a warrior died, he gathered with his fellows along the northern horizon and danced the war dances they had known on earth. The shifting streamers and the edgings of color came from the giant headdresses they wore. I was very young when I first saw them that way, and there were times during those enchanted years when I thought I could distinguish the movements of individual bodies as they rushed from one part of the sky to another. I knew nothing then of protons or atoms, and saw the northern lights as they should be seen. I knew, too, the wonderment that only a child can know and a beauty that is enhanced by mystery.

~ Sigurd F. Olson's *Wilderness Days*

Eagle Watch, Essex, Connecticut

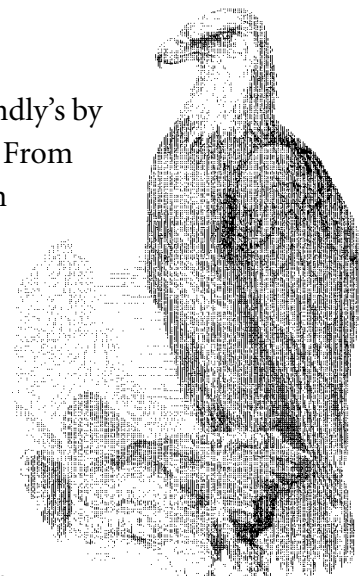
Sunday, February 24, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895)

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

Meeting Place: Friendly's on Route 5 in West Springfield, across Route 5 from the Table & Vine (f/k/a Town & Country) liquor store

Meet us for breakfast at Friendly's by 7:00 for a departure by 7:45. From there, we'll carpool down Route 91 to the town of Essex, Connecticut. In and around this area are a number of spots overlooking the Connecticut River, where we'll stop to scout for eagles. Bald eagles gather here during the winter months, as the river doesn't freeze this close to the ocean so fishing is still possible. Gillette Castle can be seen from across the river from one of our stopping spots. We'll also foray into the town for a warm-up if need be, and for lunch. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes. Dress for the weather. We'll never be too far from your car. This is not the weekend of the Connecticut Audubon Society's annual Eagle Festival, which takes place the weekend prior, February 16-17th. (Visit <http://www.ctaudubon.org/about/eaglefestival.htm> for more information about that event.)



With today's excessive gasoline prices, please be mindful of the environment, trip leaders, and drivers. If possible, please:

- carpool to destinations
 - share costs with your driver
- ~ Thank you
~ Naturalists' Club
Board of Directors

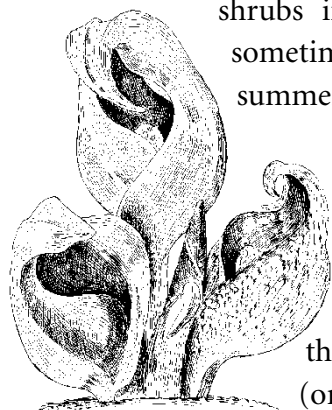
A Late-Winter Walk, West Springfield

Sunday, March 9, at 2 p.m.

Leader: Dave Lovejoy (572-5307)

Meeting Place: By the kiosk at the entrance to Mittineague Park (Registration not necessary)

Even the earliest of the spring flora (skunk cabbage) may not be blooming this early in the season, but there is always something to see on a walk in the woods. Perhaps we'll concentrate on identifying trees and



shrubs in winter condition, a task sometimes said to be easier than in summer, when leaves are present to confuse the issue. Sound perplexing? Come on along and find out. Please keep in mind that the trails might be muddy at this time of year. Heavy rain (or heavy snow) cancels.

A little muskeg lay below me, a place where the cranberries grew and their long, delicate vines interlaced the sphagnum. The hummocks were [snow-]covered and the entire surface of the bog was smooth as any floor. Beneath that surface was a jungle of grassy roots and stems, tiny mountains of sphagnum, forests of heather, the whole interwoven with thousands of twisting burrows of meadow mice. They would not see the sun for months, would live in a shadowy blue-and-white translucency, safe from storms and hawks and owls. Only the weasels could follow them there, and sometimes the probing nose of a fox. There was a world removed, an intricate winter community, self-sufficient and well organized.

~ Sigurd F. Olson's *Wilderness Days*

Holland Glen, Belchertown

Saturday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Leaders: Tom and Nancy Condon (564-0895)

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

Meeting Place: McDonald's on Route 9 in South Hadley

This hike will take us along the Metacomet and Monadnock Trail above Massachusetts' largest town, areawise, Belchertown. We'll stroll along an oak-covered ridge which provides excellent views of the surrounding hills. We'll hike past abandoned farms marked by cellar holes and stonewalls. Eventually, we will enter a dark primeval hemlock forest. The forest is home to Holland Glen Falls, a series of cascades that have carved a deep gorge through the grey bedrock. Hiking here in the spring should allow us to enjoy the falls at its thundering best.

The trail is relatively flat, but has some short steep rocky spots. Good footwear is essential. A walking staff might also be of assistance. We must cross a small creek two or three times to reach our destination. The creek might require a wet crossing, so be prepared. Bring a lunch, water, and camera or binoculars. Dress for the weather and come enjoy this wonderful spot hidden in the Belchertown hills.

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

Sunday, March 16, at 11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Dave and Suzy Gallup (525-4697)

Meeting Place: Westfield State College commuter parking lot

Join us for a pancake brunch, with freshly made maple syrup, at Maple Corner Farms in West Granville. Afterwards, you will learn about the process and history of maple syrup production. Then we will hike to the maple forest (about one mile round trip) to see how the sap is harvested from the trees. For ages 8 and up.

We need to know numbers, so please call to let us know if you will join us.

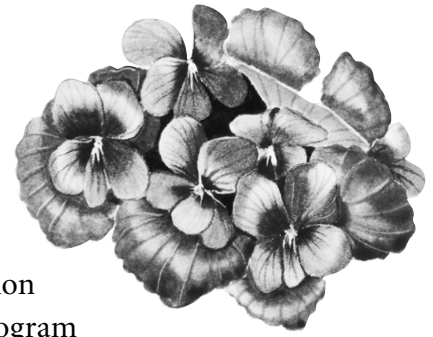
MARCH MEETING

EDIBLE WILD PLANTS OF NEW ENGLAND

Wednesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Tolman Auditorium, Springfield Science Museum

Speaker: John Root



Edible Wild Plants of New England is a comprehensive introduction to the identification and uses of native plants for food and beverage. This 90-minute PowerPoint program features our most common and appealing plant species. Seasons of availability, habitats, methods of preparation, and nutritional value are discussed, and questions and comments are welcome. Illustrated pamphlets with plant descriptions, guidelines for responsible and safe foraging, and a bibliography for further study will be distributed to participants at the conclusion of the program.

John holds a BA in biology from Oberlin College and has done graduate study in botany as well, but his knowledge of the topic derives primarily from reading books as well as three decades of foraging plants for food and drink. Basically, he is a naturalist, a/k/a "nature lover," who enjoys intimacy with the natural world experienced while finding, gathering, and preparing plants for consumption.

Bus Trip – American Museum of Natural History, New York City

Saturday, March 29, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Leaders: Dave Gallup (525-4697) and Jack Megas (782-3962)

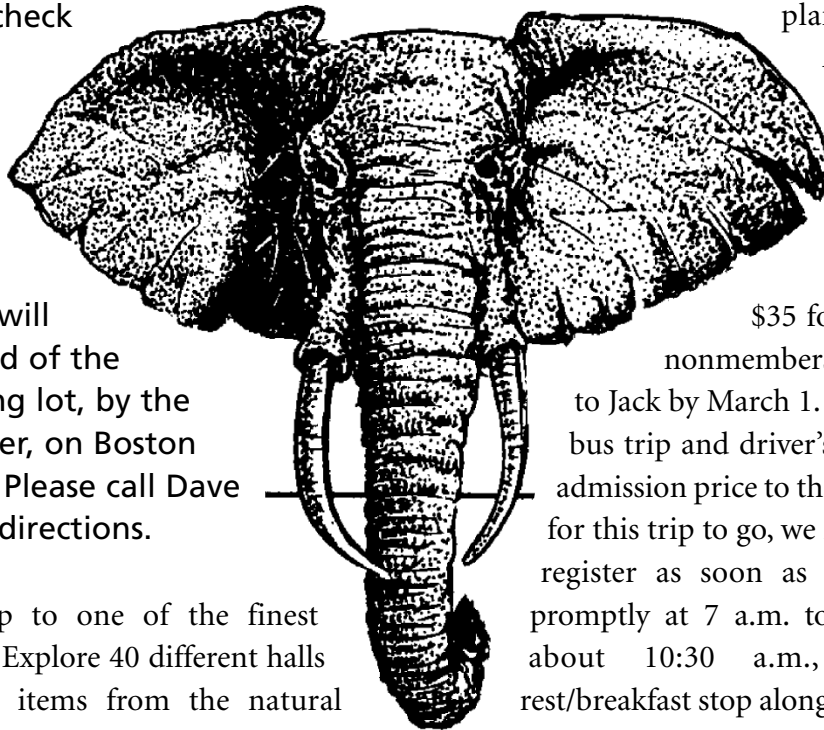
Registration: Send check payable to the

Naturalists' Club
c/o Jack Megas at
311 Surrey Road,
Springfield, MA
01118

Meeting Place: We will meet at the west end of the Eastfield Mall parking lot, by the Sears auto care center, on Boston Road in Springfield. Please call Dave or Jack for detailed directions.

Join us on a bus trip to one of the finest museums in the world. Explore 40 different halls containing 35 million items from the natural world. A spectacular dinosaur exhibit and gem and mineral specimens await you! See the real Star of India sapphire and a 1300-year-old sequoia tree and much,

much more! The museum also houses the Rose Center, a magnificent walk-through exhibit of our solar system, and many hands-on exhibits along the way. Special exhibitions on view for a separate fee include a high-tech show, "Cosmic Collisions," at the planetarium, "Dinosaurs Alive" in the IMAX theater, and the "Water: H₂O = Life" exhibit.



The cost of this trip is \$35 for club members, \$40 for nonmembers. Please send your check to Jack by March 1. Your check will cover the bus trip and driver's tip; there is a suggested admission price to the museum itself. In order for this trip to go, we need at least 35, so please register as soon as possible. We will leave promptly at 7 a.m. to arrive in New York at about 10:30 a.m., with a 30-minute rest/breakfast stop along the way. Departure from the museum is at 4:30 p.m., with a stopover for dinner at a family restaurant on the trip back home and arrival back at the mall at about 9 p.m.

'07 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

'08

President David Gallup (413-525-4697) davesuzy3@hotmail.com	Vice President Nancy Condon (413-564-0895) spiderwoman@russellma.net	Treasurer Dave Lovejoy (413-572-5307) dlovejoy@wsc.ma.edu	Corresponding Secretary Suzanne Gallup (413-525-4697) davesuzy3@hotmail.com	Recording Secretary Sonya Vickers (413-566-3406) sevickers@charter.net
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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:

Your newsletter mailing label shows whether or not your dues are paid for this year ('07-08). Thanks to all who have renewed recently (fall is renewal time), with special thanks to those who renewed or joined at the Supporting or Sustaining levels. (Membership levels appear elsewhere on this page.) Those with '06-07 on your label should send a dues check (payable to the Naturalists' Club) to Dave Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA 01086. Your prompt renewal will save the Club the expense of sending renewal reminder letters in the spring. Thanks.

Please note: Dave Lovejoy maintains the Naturalists' Club mailing list. Direct special requests or changes to him.



Become a Club Member or Renew Your Membership for 2007-2008.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Requests for programs/trips _____

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